

CONNECTING MONTESSORI TO TODAY'S WORLD

An AMI Conference Series Presented by the US Affiliates of AMI



For the first time in history, the four US affiliates of AMI (AMI-USA, NAMTA, MAA, and EAA) are partnering to present a trilogy of national conferences to support AMI's vision of connecting Montessori to today's rapidly changing world. These conferences will directly support the schools, teachers, training centers, and private- and public-education leaders who are working to implement AMI's vision to triple the impact of Montessori education.

This conference series will realize the capabilities in the alliance of the US affiliates of AMI as the partnership strengthens conference design, enhances the attendees' experience, and establishes connections within and beyond the Montessori community. A stellar selection of keynote speakers, Montessori trainers, administrators, and teachers have been assembled to present and discuss the role and contribution that Montessori education can provide in today's complex society. Exciting breakouts and special events are being planned for each conference. These conferences are designed to commence the framework of Montessori becoming the transformative education model for the 21st century.

Each conference will include Montessori speakers and experts from the many fields that support our work. Keynotes will be followed by roundtable discussions and stimulus lectures that can lead to potential action committees. Participants will be prepared to continue the implementation of Montessori as a leading education model that can be accessible to all children.

October 11-14, Baltimore, Maryland

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILD, TEACHER, AND PARENTS



The key partnerships that prepare Montessori teachers and schools to support children and families are developed by nurturing all of the relationships in a school community. This conference will inspire Montessori teachers and administrators as they are empowered to advocate for children and to support parents by adapting to the accelerating changes in culture, community, and the individual lives of families.

The strength of partnerships within the Montessori community will be critical as we build the framework for the future. Debby Riordan, AMI-USA, leaders from AMS and MAA, and David Kahn, NAMTA, will launch this conference with their reflections as leaders in the Montessori world and will each share their vision for the future.

Speakers addressing Montessori as a comprehensive educational model will include Sarah Werner Andrews, Gerry Leonard, Uma Ramani, and key researchers from the Neimand Collaborative's parent research group. Follow-up discussion topics will include creating a whole-school community, teachers supporting the child across and between the planes of development, refining the Montessori teacher towards a deeper understanding of self and the child, going out to bring the universe in, and adolescent engagement.

November 8-11, Dallas, Texas

MONTESSORI'S FRAMEWORK: RESHAPING EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

School superintendents, public and private school administrators, trainers, researchers, teachers, and social service providers will join to create a comprehensive education model with Montessori at the center. Lynne Lawrence, executive director of AMI, and John Merrow, author (*Addicted to Reform*) and education journalist, will launch a discussion of Montessori as a lasting model for public and private consideration. Jonah Edelman, advocate for public education and co-founder and CEO of Stand for Children, will launch the discussion of public policy, equity, and advocacy. A collaborative of leaders from the University of Hartford, Lumin Education, Cornerstone Montessori, Stonebrook Montessori, and Montessori trainers and practitioners will also join to produce this meaningful and empowering conference.

Key presentation tracks will include early childhood development, access for all children, equity and bias, and integrating services. A specialized track will be offered for public and private school leaders and policy advocates on public policy, teacher development, and the landscape of national Montessori research. Follow-up lectures and discussions will serve as stimuli for action to guide the implementation of Montessori in diverse settings and communities.



April 4-7, Seattle/Tacoma, Washington

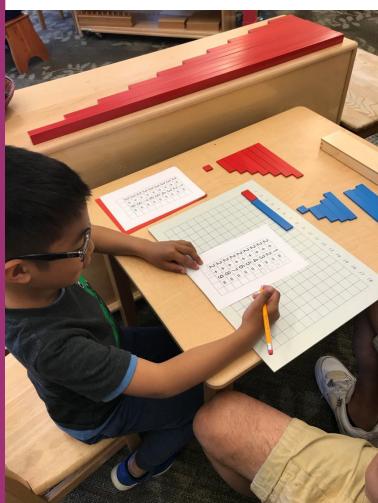
MONTESSORI GUIDANCE FOR ADAPTING TO THE GLOBAL-DIGITAL CULTURE

The acceleration of technology and the complexity of changes that are driving our current society will define the future for today's children. As Montessorians, we have the knowledge and practice that addresses the development of the "whole person." Montessori education develops critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity all within a microcosm of a respectful, harmonious society, and thus prepares each individual to adapt to their own time, place, and culture.



For this conference, Montessori educators will partner with leaders in the newly emerging field of humane technology to examine technology's impact on the lives of children and families. The idea of humane technology recognizes that while we can be distracted and stressed by our ever-present devices, we can also use them for engagement, learning, social change, and positive personal empowerment. The call for humane technology brings awareness to the design of our devices so we can protect our minds from constant distraction and take control of our digital lives by aligning our technology with the well-being of humanity. It is also a call to explore the forces that ground us and help us to understand ourselves. This conference will give balance to the acceleration of technology as we explore the power of story, nature, and self-expression. Keynote speakers to launch this timely conference include Max Stossel, head of content and storytelling for the Center for Humane Technology, and Jay O'Callahan, master storyteller. Parents, teachers, and administrators will join as we consider the impact of ever-accelerating technology on children, schools, and families.

Follow-up stimulus lectures will discuss guiding students through the turbulence of social media; technology and creativity in math, science and the arts; working with parents to develop realistic guidelines for the right use of technology; storytelling as teaching; the power of nature to inspire and guide development; and the role of creativity and self-expression across the planes.



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