

Michigan Montessori Society Newsletter - Updated Version

January 16, 2026

Helpful Links:

- [Michigan Montessori Society \(MMS\)](#)
- [American Montessori Society \(AMS\)](#)
- [Association Montessori Internationale \(AMI\)](#)
- [MMS Facebook](#)

Welcome to *Michigan Montessori Monthly*, the monthly newsletter from the Michigan Montessori Society.

Stay up to date on all the important news and updates for Montessori in Michigan, the nation, and the world.

Have an article or topic you'd like to share? Please email it to us at info@mmsoc.org.

Calendar Events

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| <p>AMS Labposium January 14 – 16, 2026 Hilton Head, SC</p> | <p>Click here for more information: https://events.amshq.org/event/725a3490-228d-4393-bab1-e979150e4e27/home</p> |
| <p>AMI Refresher Course February 13 – 15, 2026 San Diego</p> | <p>Click here for more information: https://www.amiusa.org/event/the-2026-montessori-experience-refresher-courses-more-in-san-diego-ca</p> |
| <p>The Montessori Event (AMS) March 19 – 22, 2026 Washington D.C.</p> | <p>Click here for more information: https://amshq.org/event/the-montessori-event-2026/</p> |

Welcome New Year

Janus, the Roman god for whom January is named, has two faces—one looking forward and one looking back. In ancient Roman mythology, Janus was the god of gates and doors, a fitting metaphor for the beginning of a new year.

As the year ends, we close a door on what has passed. As the new year begins, Janus—January—offers us a key to open the door to what lies ahead. To borrow a favorite term from anthropology, January places us in a *liminal* space: a threshold of transition, reflection, and possibility.

Make the most of this moment. Look back on what you have accomplished in the past year and carry those insights forward as you set intentions and goals for the year to come. The attached document is a wonderful tool for reflection from the Prague Montessori Institute.



[Click here to read more!](#)



Legislative Action

School leaders need to be informed of what may impact Montessori schools—public and independent—at both the state and federal levels.

Many of you know that the state provides funds for school safety and student mental health to public and nonpublic schools. You may not know that the state recently attached a requirement that schools using these grants must waive their right to attorney client privilege in a mass casualty event. Several school districts sued recently and lost. Traverse City was one of those districts.

Here's how a local news source covered the [story](#), which includes the details.

Public Montessori in Michigan

Twenty years ago, there were few public Montessori schools in Michigan. To start a public program required a committed Superintendent with a matching budget, a magnet grant, or both. Although it still takes enormous effort to step away from conventional models in publicly funded schools, Montessori programs are taking hold and flourishing across the State.

The children of the Lieutenant Governor attend a public Montessori! In Grand Rapids and Detroit, Jackson and Traverse City, the capital city of Lansing and many other places, families are turning to public Montessori programs. Educators are training in the Montessori method and developing new tools to answer the questions posed by public stakeholders and taxpayers in order to deliver the method authentically.

The most important development, however, is not the creation of these public programs themselves, but rather the cooperative path that independent and public Montessori schools

NATIONAL CENTER for MONTESSORI in the PUBLIC SECTOR

are forging together. The two branches of the movement empower Montessori advocacy like never before. More publicly funded programs equals more interest, more accurate information and an increased demand for all Montessori programs.

Finally, and most importantly, the more children brought into this deeply human and peaceful pedagogy the better.

To see The Montessori Census Map of public and charter programs across the U.S. , [click here](#):

Montessori Census Credit: National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector
Kristan Small, Lansing's Wexford Montessori



Spring Gathering – Mark Your Calendar

Our Spring Gathering will take place on May 2, so save the date.

Carol Williams, the keynote speaker, is a professor of early childhood at both Eastern Michigan University and Schoolcraft Community College. The topic--*Montessori History Lesson*--will review the early support and enthusiasm for Montessori in the U.S., followed by subsequent criticism from American educators, and then the resurgence in the 1960's.

Carol's love of history will provide attendees with a clear understanding of where the Montessori philosophy has traveled through time and where we might be headed.

Following Carol's keynote, participants will break into discuss groups. Suggestion topics—so far—are:

- Ways to create a bridge between home and school
- Attention: what promotes and what prevents
- Music options when you don't have a piano.
- Q & A with Carol

Please mark your calendar today for the Spring Gathering—**May 2, 8:30 – 12:30**, at Ann Arbor Children's House (2309 Packard St. Ann Arbor).

Accredited School Focus

Michigan is home to many outstanding Montessori schools, and this month we focus on [Plymouth Canton Montessori School](#), an MMS accredited school.

Plymouth-Canton Montessori School is an independent, non-profit, international Montessori school for students from toddlers (18 months) through middle school (eighth grade). The school's toddler, preschool/kindergarten, and extended-day programs are accredited by the International Montessori Council (IMC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



In addition to accreditation from the Michigan Montessori Society, PCM is affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS), the International Montessori Council, and AIMS (the Association of Independent Michigan Schools).

The school also works closely with the **Montessori Foundation*** to ensure authenticity of Montessori curriculum and best practices.

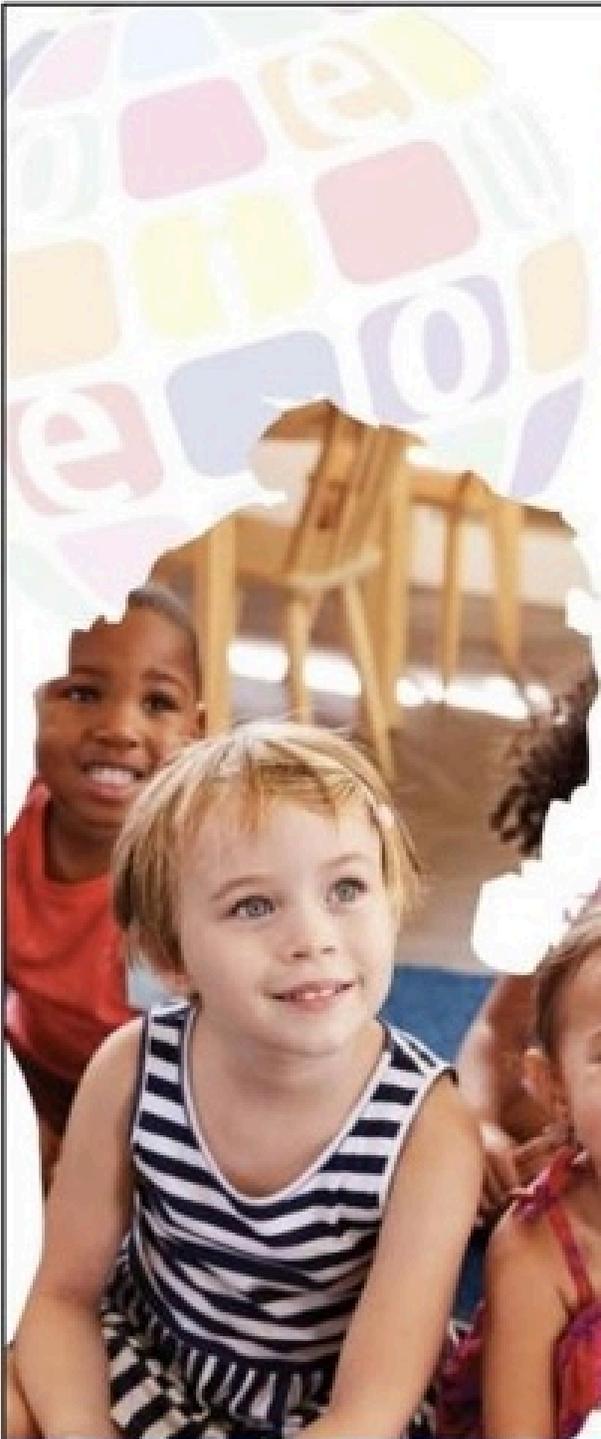
Each school we highlight has a little something worth sharing, and PCM shares these pillars upon which they build their program:

- The cultivation within our students of a passion for excellence in everything they do, both in and outside of school.
- The development of a strongly held set of universal values includes self-respect, respect for others, honesty, integrity, responsibility, empathy, compassion, kindness, peacefulness, a sense of concern for others, warmth, and a love of community.
- The development of a global perspective and sense of international understanding.
- The commitment to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

If you are in the neighborhood, stop in for a visit (but contact the school first):

45245 Joy Road | Canton, MI 48187

Phone: (734) 459-1550 | hello@dhmontessori.org



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