

Michigan Montessori Society Newsletter

for June 2026



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Meet MMS's Newest Board Member...

Lacey Rogers



We would like to welcome our newest board member, Ms. Lacey Rogers.

Lacey Rogers began her Montessori career in 2014 at a small school in Bay City. She began working as a Lead Guide and Director while earning her AMS Primary credential in 2020 through ADMTEI in Adrian, Michigan. Following a relocation later that year to the Lansing area, she began working at Montessori Radmoor in Okemos. From 2022-2024 she worked to earn her AMI 0-3 credential through SIMS in Phoenix, Arizona. Wanting to gain even more knowledge in the Montessori field, Lacey completed her Masters Degree in Montessori Education through the University of Loyola, Maryland in May 2025. In the fall of 2025 she started a Specialist degree program through the

University of Florida in Curriculum and Instruction, which should be completed in 2027. Lacey is currently a Lead Primary Guide at Montessori Radmoor, where her two daughters also attend. In her free time she enjoys watching her children's sporting activities, spending time up north with family, and playing clarinet in a community band when time allows. This past fall she created a bioactive terrarium and got 3 Poison Dart Frogs for her classroom! It has been a fun and exciting process; so much so that she started an Instagram Page for the frogs. This allows for her classroom and school community to 'hang out' with

the classroom pets! If you want to follow along, you can find it @the.p.d.f.s



To GSRP or not to GSRP...

...that is the question.

Whether it is nobler to serve a smaller group of children whose families are able to pay tuition, or open your doors to a wider demographic of children who may require more of your teachers. A tough choice.



GRSP began with a focus on High Scope curriculum which does not align with Montessori. Because of that, authentic Montessori schools did not...could not join the ranks of schools that offered tuition-free education to 4-year-olds in Michigan. Over the years that GSRP has been funded in Michigan, several changes have taken place making it possible for Montessori schools to participate in the program.

The first was recognition of Montessori credentials for teachers. Teachers must now have a Bachelor's degree in any subject with a MACTE approved training to qualify as a lead teacher.

The concept of "braided classrooms" was created to allow Montessori schools to maintain a three-year age span. This is a basic element of authentic Montessori programs and prior to the inclusion of braided classrooms, the GSRP requirement was for 4-year-olds only.

Acceptance of the Montessori curriculum was a huge change from the High Scope requirement. This allows Montessori programs to continue to offer individualized instruction during an extended class time rather than large group instruction that is broken into periods focusing on various lessons.

The requirements of High Scope classrooms were inconsistent with the Montessori materials provided in authentic programs. This last recognition of the Montessori materials being a self-chosen teaching tool the children interact with was one of the last concessions GSRP implemented. With the recognition of a "third" teacher in the room (that being the Montessori materials) GSRP now allows Montessori schools to enroll students to their capacity rather than limiting the class size to 20 students.

These modifications were made specifically to welcome Montessori programs into the GSRP classrooms that provide free education to Michigan’s preschoolers. However, inclusion into this group comes at a cost. GSRP schools must offer free family-style meals to all children enrolled. The schools must also adopt an evaluation system that, while not inconsistent with Montessori progress reports, requires an incredible amount of time to document. Budgets, trainings, documentation, menus, invoices, reports, calendars, home visits, family events, all add to the workload of the Montessori directors, teachers, and assistants.

On the upside, free preschool education opens opportunities for families that are unable to pay tuition to attend a high-quality Montessori program. It levels the “paying” field allowing all children to enjoy the benefits of an individualized educational experience that will meet them where they are and provide the tools they need to be confident, independent and successful learners.

A Summer Recycling Project

During the summer, we sort through the materials, repair those needing a bit of glue, try to find missing parts to make the work whole again and figure out which puzzles have too many pieces missing to be of any use. But what to do with those remaining puzzle pieces? Here’s a fun project to do this summer. All it takes are tongue depressors, paint, glue, a little creativity and left-over puzzle pieces!



We made signs for the kids to hold, took their pictures, printed them 4 x 4 and cut them to size. If you’d like a copy of the signs we made, reach out to

Kathy@MMSOC.org.



The kids enjoyed painting and gluing. We put posterboard behind the frame and placed the kids’ pictures in the frame. A perfect summer gift for Mom and Dad.

Advocating for Montessori - A brief update

In recent months, MPPI (Montessori Public Policy Initiative) has been working behind the scenes, keeping track of a variety of things concerning Montessori schools. One aspect is regarding the percentage of income which programs can charge families for early childhood education programs.



In Michigan, we are still working on legislation for an alternative pathway for Montessori trained teachers to become Michigan state licensed teachers. Senator Erika Giess is one of the members of the senate education committee.