

About Our Rochester Guides



Miss Erica Carneiro | The Nest Room (Infant)

I am originally from Brazil. I am married and have two beautiful daughters and one dog. In my spare time, I like to go biking. I also love hiking and enjoying nature. Some of my favorite hobbies include drawing and painting. I have been a guide for over 22 years and part of The MSRCL 2019.

I fell in love with Montessori philosophy because of the deep respect of the child. Children are fully capable of learning freely and developing in an environment prepared for them based on the guide's previous observations. Infants are learning to eat, to talk, to move, to crawl, to walk, and they do it all within a few months of life. It's fascinating how capable and competent they are.

The Montessori method complements and helps guide us to create supportive environments for our young friends to develop beautifully. It is a pleasure to participate in, guide and witness this very important development stage of these students.



Miss Charlene Tatreau | The Nest Room (Infant)

I'm from France and moved to the USA 6 years ago. I am married and have a daughter. I worked as a nurse in an oncology department for 10 years. The experience taught me empathy, respect, patience. I loved my job but desired to work with children. I started to plan my big project of opening my own childcare (birth to 3 years old).

In 2015, while I was pregnant with my daughter, I discovered Maria Montessori's work and I immediately felt that her philosophy of education and pedagogy was respecting the "natural laws of children". What she did in the 20's is now proven by many neuroscientists in their research.

In January 2019, I started to work in a Montessori preschool, first as an assistant in primary and then as lead in a toddler room. I loved it and learned so much, but I wanted to work with infants and there was no community. In 2022, I decided to stop at The MSRCL and I immediately fell in love with this school and knew I wanted to be part of this great family. It has everything a child needs to learn and grow in an authentic Montessori environment. I can't wait to welcome your little ones for another year, guide them through independence and see them thrive.



Miss Veronica | Iris Classroom (Toddler)

I was born in Mexico and my family and I have been in Michigan for 11 years after my husband's job in the automotive industry brought us here. I have three children, the youngest being an MSRCL student since 2017 when I began at The MSRCL as an Assistant Guide. Back in Mexico, I worked as a bilingual Administrative Assistant for 10 years where I was invited to teach basic English at my children's school. I worked for 5 years as a Bilingual Teacher in a pre-K

school. This experience made me fall in love even more with my passion for educating young children. I have recently finished the CDA (Child Development associate's degree), and I am in the process of obtaining my Infant-Toddler AMS Montessori certificate.



Ms. Dena Mullaly | Lotus Classroom (Toddler)

I have been the Lead Guide in the Lotus Room since 20--. I hold a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education/Child Development, with a ZA endorsement from Central Michigan University. During this time, I had the opportunity to student teach in London, England.

Throughout my Montessori teaching experience, over the past 18 years, I've assisted in summer camps, Primary and Toddler programs. I trained at the Michigan Montessori Teacher Education Center in Early Childhood in 2009. After this, I helped to create and develop a Toddler Program where I was the Lead Toddler Teacher for 12 years.

I grew up in Canton and currently live in Lake Orion with my husband and our three children. I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, watching movies, exploring new places in our camper, and riding bikes!



Ms. Davie Bireley | Sunflower Classroom (Toddler)

I am a Lead Toddler Guide at The MSRCL and have been with the school since 2021. I hold an associate's degree in liberal arts from Oakland Community College. I also studied Elementary Education and Language Arts at Wayne State University.

I have ten years of experience in Montessori schools. During that time, I have worked in toddler classrooms, primary classrooms, the front office, aftercare, and summer camps. I am also certified from the Michigan Montessori Teacher Education Center's Early Childhood Program.

I have two sons who attend The MSRCL. I also have a daughter who is in middle school. My husband, children and I enjoy the beautiful season changes of Michigan and exploring libraries, museums.



Heather Slucksin | Lilac Classroom (Toddler)

I am the Lilac Room Lead Guide at The MSRCL since 2024. I have been in the early childhood education field for ten wonderful years. I became a Lead Guide because I wanted to create an environment that was educational and full of fun.

I love everything that has to do with nature, animals and has a positive approach to everyday life. Some of my favorite things to do is read, go on nature walks and painting.



Miss Emily McPhail | Maple Classroom (Primary)

From my first moments in an MSRCL classroom in the summer of 2018, I knew I had found my calling. I have completed my AMI diploma at the Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies in Arizona, and a Master of Education in Montessori Education at Loyola University Maryland. Combined with a B.A. in Psychology and Interpersonal Communication from Michigan State University.

I love the joy and independence Montessori offers the child. Montessori provides children with the freedom and opportunity to make discoveries about the world around them and their place in it.



Miss Hannah McCauley | Magnolia Classroom (Primary)

My passion for Montessori education began in 2017 when I stepped into my first classroom. I obtained my AMS certification in primary education in 2018 and have been teaching ever since. I am thrilled to have joined the MSRCL family in 2024 and to share my love for learning with all of my students.

I love Montessori because it focuses on the whole child, fosters independence, and instills confidence in children to help themselves. I appreciate the hands-on materials that allow children to learn through the manipulation of objects.



Miss Kayla Uren | Redbud Classroom (Primary)

I have been teaching in early childhood for 11 years and with The Montessori School Rochester & Crystal Lake since 2020. When I was introduced to Montessori over 6 years ago, I fell in love, and I knew it was where I wanted to be. To me, Montessori just made sense to how children truly learn.

After becoming certified, it is not only the way I teach but the way I live my life. I have a son and I guide him in Montessori as well.

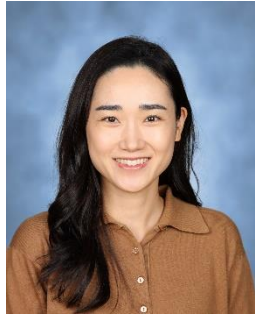


Miss Andria Conti | Wisteria Classroom (Primary)

I was first introduced to the Montessori philosophy over fifteen years ago, while observing a primary classroom as part of a job interview. I will never forget how impressed (and admittedly, a little surprised) I was as I watched the children happily choose work and move throughout the classroom with grace and purpose. There was a remarkable sense of calm and peace, and I knew immediately that Montessori education was where I should be. Thankfully, I got the job, and the rest is history!

I received my AMS Montessori teaching credential in 2018 and have been a part of The Montessori School Rochester & Crystal Lake since 2021. I have worked as a lead guide in both primary and toddler environments and have also consulted with families to bring the Montessori philosophy to their home routines.

I am passionate about instilling and supporting a love of learning in children and have a deep appreciation for the Montessori approach of following the child's natural inclinations to learn. I have two daughters who have both attended Montessori schools themselves.



Ms. Bella Han | Evergreen Forest (Lower Elementary)

I have a true passion for education and hoped to be a teacher from a young age. After earning my bachelor's degree in English Literature and Language in South Korea, I worked as an ESL teacher for 4 years and experienced Montessori Primary and Elementary since 2021 at The MSRCL. I attended Southwest Institute of Montessori Studies in Arizona to receive my AMI Elementary diploma.

Outside of the classroom, I love spending time with my husband and love being a mom to my toddler-age daughter.



Ms. Morgan DiCaro | Evergreen Forest (Lower Elementary)

I have been teaching Montessori at the elementary level since 2013 and with The Montessori School Rochester & Crystal Lake since 2023. I am lower and upper elementary certified and have been teaching Botany and Zoology to adult learners at the Michigan Montessori Training Education Center each summer for over 5 years.

I enjoy cooking, gardening vegetables and flowers, and collecting rocks and crystals. I am passionate about supporting the emotional well-being of children and love the joy of watching students discover new things.



Ms. Judy Goral | Evergreen Forest (Lower Elementary)

AMS Certified Montessori primary guide of over 14 years, I also carry an Associate Degree in Applied Science. I have been a Lead Guide in both Primary and Lower Elementary at The Montessori School Rochester since 2020.

Drawing on both, I have the ability to spark the imagination of young children with the wonders of STEM and bring clarity to complex concepts. My experience in early childhood education ranges from infants to toddler to primary and elementary age.