



The goal of PCTE is to support adult learners all the way through their training, from start to finish and that takes a team, working in sync. The following individuals are ready to support you on your journey to becoming a Montessori teacher or administrator.

Judy Bauerlein

Judy Bauerlein is an AMS certified early childhood and elementary Montessori teacher working in the elementary programs in San Mateo, California. She is an AMS consultant and workshop presenter. Her experience as a teacher trainer on the elementary level covers over 20 years. Judy is an instructor in the PCTE Elementary programs.

Erica Blanco

Erica Blanco is a Lower Elementary Teacher at Hudson Montessori School and a curriculum writer at ETC Montessori. She attended Montclair State University, PCTE, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey-New Brunswick, and Consortium of Universities.

Kathy Chrzan, B.A.

Kathy Chrzan holds a BA from the University of Scranton, PA, with a concentration in Psychology. She holds an American Montessori Society Infant and Toddler credential through the Montessori Center Teacher Education in Scarsdale, NY. She has over 20 years of experience in education; she has taught at the elementary level as well at both private and public charter schools. She has lead the full day Toddler Program for Princeton Montessori School, and is currently a faculty member in the Infant Center. She is an instructor and field consultant for PCTE.

Ursula Connors, B.F.A.

Ursula Connors received a BFA in Illustration from the Parsons School of Design, NY, and studied at the American University in Paris. She studied Montessori Philosophy and Child Development through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE). Ursula is a certified Yoga teacher through Yoga Alliance. She uses her yoga training and expertise while teaching the Primary children fitness skills.

Erin Conway, M.Ed.

Erin Conway holds an AMS Infant/Toddler Teacher Credential and an M.Ed. in Education with a concentration in Montessori Pedagogy from St. Catherine's University. She is the co-owner of Montessori Cottage in Fallsington, PA. Erin is an active member of the PA Montessori Heads Group, a private consultant for Montessori Schools with Toddler programs, and a Parent Educator. Erin was recently selected as a Stakeholder by the PA Child of Development and Early Learning to represent Montessori pedagogy as Pennsylvania creates a new framework for Early Childhood Learning.

Lynn Crow, B.A.

Lynn Crow is AMS certified in early childhood. She is a former Primary teacher at the Princeton Montessori School and has experience in both public and private school settings. She has been involved in Middle States Accreditation for the school. Lynn is an instructor in the PCTE Early Childhood class.

Christine Frost, M.A.

Christine Frost is an AMS certified Montessori teacher for the infant and toddler level and the early childhood (3-6) level. Christine is a former Stepping Stones teacher at The Albrook School in Basking Ridge, NJ. She brings a varied background to her adult learners because of her many years of experience in both the primary and the toddler classroom and her world travels. Christine is an instructor in the PCTE Early Childhood and Infant and Toddler courses.

Lorraine Gahles-Kildow, Ph. D.

Lorraine Gahles-Kildow specializes in clinical behavior analysis, cognitive behavior therapy, and psycho-educational training for individuals, groups, agencies, and schools. Dr. Gahles-Kildow has many years experience working as a college adjunct professor teaching general psychology, child development and development across the lifespan, personality, abnormal and adolescent psychology. Dr. Gahles-Kildow is an instructor in the PCTE Infant and Toddler and Elementary programs and has been with PCTE for the past 15 years. She has conducted workshops on Positive Emotions- Upward Spirals of Well-Being, Anxiety in Children, Integrated Healthcare and the Hidden Faces of PTSD. Her current workshop project is on the emotional, psychological and physical impact of being a care provider.

Teresa Hartmann, B.A.

Teresa Hartmann holds a BA in Psychology and Communications from Rutgers University, NJ, an MA in Psychology from the New School for Social Research, NY, and an American Montessori Society Early Childhood credential through Princeton Center Teacher Education. She also has experience in the corporate and medical field.

Michelle Jacob, M.A.

Michelle Jacob received a BA in Elementary Education from Elizabethtown College and a MA in Educational Leadership and Administration from George Washington University. She holds a NJ Teaching Certificate, an American Montessori credential at the Elementary I and II levels from PCTE, and certification in Green Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. Michelle teaches Middle School and is the Educational Coordinator for the Middle School program at Princeton Montessori School.

Maria Johnson, M.S.

Maria Johnson received a BS in Speech Pathology from James Madison University, NJ, and a MS in Speech Pathology from Ithaca College, NY. She holds an American Montessori Society credential in Infant/Toddler from MECA, IL (Seton Montessori Institute). She has close to 30 years of experience working with Infants. Most recently Maria has lead the Baby and Me Class at Princeton Montessori School. She has a deep interest and understanding of parents' concerns and the challenges they face balancing their lives with the lives of young children.

Huma Kazmi, B.A.

Huma Kazmi received a BS degree in Chemistry with honors from the University of London, England. Prior to education, she worked in Business Development and Marketing. She earned an American Montessori Society credential in Elementary I-II and is an instructor and field consultant with Princeton Center Teacher Education (PCTE), NJ. She has experience in both Lower and Upper Elementary classrooms and is a parent of two Montessori children. Huma has also developed numerous after school clubs for elementary students including Science, Math, Robotics, and Coding.

Judy Laidlaw, B.A.

Judy Laidlaw is a certified AMS early childhood teacher. She presently teaches at the Albrook School in the Early Childhood program. Judy has many years experience teaching in both public and private school settings in reading and the humanities. Judy is a language instructor in the PCTE Early Childhood course.

Lisa Lalama, B.A.

Lisa Lalama is an AMS certified 6-12 elementary teacher. She is Head of School at Wilmington Montessori School, a candidate for a PCTE Montessori Leadership credential and is also a certified graduate of the Schools Attuned Program. She holds a Bachelors of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sociology. Lisa is an instructor in the PCTE Elementary I and I-II programs.

Rosann Larrow, M.Ed.

Rosann Larrow holds a MEd in Education with an emphasis on Montessori from Walsh University. She is founder and co-director of Montessori Opportunities, Inc., a mobile teacher education program based in Norwalk, OH. A Montessori directress and teacher for several AMS education programs, she provides consultation to schools and has served as a member of the AMS Teacher Education Action Committee, AMS Teacher Education Committee (TEC), and AMS TEC Elementary Committee. AMS-credentialed (EC, EI-II). She is a frequent presenter and workshop leader both nationally and internationally.

Alex Mitnick, B.A.

Alex Mitnick graduated with honors with a BA in Jazz Guitar from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. He enjoys creating school musicals with the Elementary and Middle School students, composing songs in keeping with the annual school theme, and producing CD's with his Kaleidoscope Band. He presents to schools and teachers, and is an instructor for the Princeton Teacher Education (PCTE).

Vandana Monteiro, M.B.A.

Vandana Monteiro holds an MBA with specialization in Human Resources and a BS in Environmental Science from St. Joseph's College of Business Administration, India. She holds an American Montessori Society credential in Infant/Toddler through the Princeton Center Teacher Education (PCTE), as well as an AMS Administrator Credential from PCTE. She currently serves as the Educational Coordinator for the Infant and Toddler Programs at Princeton Montessori School, and as the Level Coordinator at the Toddler Level for PCTE. In addition to her role at Princeton Montessori School and PCTE, Vandana's philanthropic generosity and educational expertise has led her to begin the process of opening a school in India for Disadvantaged Children.

Jennifer Morgan, M.B.A.

Jennifer Morgan is the award-winning author of Universe Story Trilogy, Born With a Bang, From Lava to Life, and Mammals Who Morph. She gives school programs for adult learners, teachers and parents on the Montessori Cosmic Education Curriculum including dramatic telling of the universe story. She has an MBA from Rutgers University and graduated cum laude from University of San Francisco with a BA in Theology. Ms. Morgan serves on several environmental and agricultural boards in Princeton.

Andrea O'Brian, B.F.A.

Andrea O'Brian is the Director of Operations and Communications at Princeton Montessori School. Prior to joining Princeton Montessori in 2006, she spent several years working for an international management consultancy, and then founded her own graphic design company. Andrea has served on several reaccreditation teams and is the current Vice President of the New Jersey Montessori Association Corporation (NJMAC). Andrea holds a BFA in Graphic Design from The College of New Jersey, NJ and an American Montessori Society Administrator credential. She is a frequent presenter at local and national conferences and serves as the Level Coordinator for the PCTE Administrator Course.

Laurie Orsic, B.A.

Laurie Orsic is the Assistant Head of School at Wilmington Montessori School. She is a 6-9 AMS Credentialed Teacher with over 20 years of experience in both teaching and administration in Montessori Schools. She is a seasoned mentor teacher and field consultant for PCTE as well as an instructor at the Elementary Level. Laurie has been a frequent presenter at Montessori Conferences at the State and National Level.

Alona Procaccini

Alona Procaccini holds an American Montessori Society credential in Infant/Toddler through Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE), NJ. She is a frequent parent workshop presenter on the topic of Preparing a Montessori Home Environment for the Young Child. Alona has over 25 years of experience working with Infants and Toddlers. She is currently a lead teacher in the Toddler full-day program at Princeton Montessori School. Alona loves working with infant and toddler aged-children because of their passion for exploring the world. She brings a joy of reading, singing, baking, and painting to the classroom environment.

Ayla Sen, B.S.

Ayla Sen received a BS in Philosophy and Pedagogy from the University of Ankara, Turkey. Ayla is a certified AMS early childhood teacher with over 20 years of experience. She presently teaches a 3-6 class at Princeton Montessori School and serves as the Early Childhood Educational Coordinator for Princeton Montessori school. Ayla has experience teaching in Turkey and the United States. Ayla is an instructor in the PCTE Early Childhood and Elementary I classes, is a seasoned mentor to new teachers and a field consultant for PCTE. She also serves as the Level Coordinator for the Early Childhood teacher education program.

Sherry Schweighardt

Sherry Schweighardt is a physical education specialist and a doctoral adult learner in Kinesiology and Applied Behavior Analysis at Temple University. She is a Graduate Teaching Fellow of the University and a U.S. Forest Service Sustainability Science Fellow. Sherry holds teaching certificates in elementary and higher education, along with coaching certifications in multiple sports. She is an experienced teacher and teacher educator and a frequent presenter at national and regional conferences; she also consults with schools and community organizations. Sherry is an instructor in the Early Childhood and Elementary I courses.

Kathy Sellers, B.A.

Kathy Sellers holds a BA in English Literature and a NJ education certification for K-8 through Rider University's Graduate Level Teacher Certification Program as well as an American Montessori Society Elementary I and Elementary II credential. She presently teaches in the upper elementary program. Kathy teaches in the PCTE Elementary I-II programs. She also serves as the Level Coordinator for the Early Childhood teacher education program.

Gwen Shangle, M.Ed.

Gwen Shangle is the Director of PCTE. She has a specialty in Elementary Teacher Training as well as a field consultant and mentor teacher for new teachers in training. She is Director of School Services for Princeton Montessori School. Prior to this, she was a classroom teacher for 20 years. Gwen holds a M.Ed in developmental reading; BA in psychology and elementary education. She has presented at AMS conferences and for parents and faculty.

Susan Steidel

Susan Steidel is an AMS certified Early Childhood and Elementary I and II Montessori teacher. She has many years teaching experience in public and independent Montessori schools, including Princeton Montessori School. Susan is an instructor in the PCTE Elementary I program. Her talents include mentoring new teachers, consulting schools, as well as being a Master Storyteller.

Joyce Tatsch, B.A.

Joyce Tatsch is AMS Certified in Early Childhood, and holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from The College of NJ. She taught in the 3-6 class at Princeton Montessori for 30 years. She was a Master Teacher for many PCTE interns through the years. She is the Educational and Field Consultant Coordinator at PCTE and has been on the PCTE faculty since its' inception teaching Language, Practical Life and Classroom Management. Joyce was involved in helping to establish the Ukrainian Montessori School and Teacher Training Program. Previously Joyce has served on accreditation teams for AMS and Middle States.

Melanie Thiesse, M.Ed.

Melanie Thiesse, holds an AMS credential in Elementary I from CMTE North Carolina, and an NCME credential in Elementary I & II from Teachers College of San Diego. She taught for fifteen years in elementary and middle school classrooms in both private and charter Montessori schools and is now the curriculum coordinator for a NJ Montessori school. She is a conference presenter, has served on and chaired school accreditation teams for AMS and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and also sits on several education committees. She received her Master of Arts in Education from St. Catherine University and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrative Studies focusing on Child and Adolescent Development from Arizona State University.