



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY

# Jesuit Education and Montessori Education: Common Threads



### **Jesuit Vision**

- Sees life and the whole universe as a gift calling forth wonder and gratefulness.
- Gives ample scope to imagination and emotion as well as intellect (education of the whole person).
- Sees to find the divine in all things, all people, all cultures.
- Seeks freedom and responsible actions.
- Empowers people to become leaders in service, "men and women (people) for/with others".

### **Montessori Vision**

- To create an environment and curriculum that enhances and unfolds awe and wonder daily.
- To educate the whole child: physical, emotional, spiritual, cognitive and self development skills.
- Models respect for all things, all people, all cultures, all life.
- Through freedom of guided choice students experience the power of teaching themselves and becoming responsible citizens of the future.
- Embodies community and service for classroom, school, city, country and world through cosmic curriculum and deep community relationships.



## Jesuit Education

### “Cura personalis”

#### Care of Person

- Attitude of respect for the dignity of each individual.
- To nurture the whole self: mind, body, heart, soul.
- Using Spiritual Exercises to see the daily gifts given to us.
- Developing relationships with students that go beyond teaching.
- Guiding students toward personal responsibility.

## Montessori Care of Person

- Attitude of respect for oneself and each other.
- Teaching students to care for their daily needs.
- Teaching students to care for their environment,
- Developing a healthy community that nurtures each other as well as nurtures one self, the brain as well as the heart and spirit.
- To develop an awareness of personal responsibility and the impact it has on community



## Jesuit Education

### Discernment

- A process of making choices through being open to God's spirit in order to make good decisions that will contribute to the betterment of oneself and the greater good.
- What am I passionate about?
- How can I make a difference in the world?
- "Go Forth and Set the World on Fire"

## Montessori Education

### Making Choices

- Provide a supportive environment that allows for the development of making choices, making mistakes and the consequences of one's choices.
- What is one's cosmic task?
- What are my strengths?
- What are my challenges?
- How do I use my choices to enhance and contribute to the community.

## Jesuit Education Service

- Service Rooted in Justice and Love
- Educating Men and Women (people) for Others
- Service of Faith
- Promotion of Justice
- To develop a disciplined sensitivity toward the suffering of our world .
- The will to act for the transformation of unjust social structures that cause that suffering.
- There will be no justice with out love.

## Montessori Education Service

- Beginning with classroom community we develop a respectful understanding of each other and our community needs supporting each other in work and play.
- Working with the local community, the students begin to give back to local food shelters, Lydia's House, and North Avondale Community Center.
- Service Projects are an ongoing part of our Elementary curriculum.
- Upper Elementary will begin an afterschool program called YSL (Youth Service League) where students will volunteer to serve in many capacities: school, local community, city and world.  
**Could we collaborate together to serve?**



## **Jesuit Education**

### **Structure and Flexibility**

- Attending to individual needs of students
- Class size helps maintain a personal relationship with students.
- Working with students to support their strengths as well as their challenges.
- Going beyond the class to support the individual students.

## **Montessori Education**

### **Structure with Individual Choice**

- Supporting choice and independence creates an environment that allows for continued growth and development in a structured classroom setting.
- Students have a teacher for 3 years and this develops a rich understanding of who each student is and how to support them on their educational journey.
- Meeting the individual needs of each child, enhancing their strengths and supports their challenges.
- Going beyond the classroom setting to support individual students.

## Jesuit Education

### Solidarity and Kinship

- Awareness that only by working together can the human family meet effectively. the challenges of worldwide hunger, ignorance, disease and violence.
- Extending of care to those close at hand.
- Commitment to change the economic, political and social structures that enslaves, dehumanize, and destroy human life and dignity.
- This is done through community service, service-learning projects and immersion experiences.

## Montessori Education

### Cooperation and Collaboration

- To work together in a community of cooperation and collaboration, compassion and love.
- The experience of working together in a community setting, teaching and supporting each other through daily interactions and learning situations.
- To experience and participate as a school community the importance of changing the world through collection of food for food banks, working with families in the Avondale and Norwood Community, supporting scholarship needs and imbedding the philosophy that we are here for a purpose and to “give back”.

## Jesuit Education

### Reflection and Accountability

- Reflection is a cornerstone to Ignatius's learning process.
- Thoughtful reconsideration of subject matter, experience, idea, purpose, or spontaneous reacting, in order to grasp its significance more fully.
- Achieving personal insights and coming to an understanding of who I am... and who I might be in relation to others.
- Learning how to learn
- Ask questions to broaden students' awareness and compel them to consider viewpoints of others.

## Montessori Education

### Reflection/Transformation

- Daily reflection allows students to prioritize, understand, change, celebrate and improve oneself and the community as a whole.
- Asking questions instead of giving answers allows for the student to discover, experience, and investigate with a deeper understanding.
- Understanding one's strengths as well as one's challenges helps one celebrate strengths and work on challenges in a supportive community who accepts me for who I am.
- Socratic Discussion allows for understanding of others viewpoints and the ability to verbalize one's own.





# **“Go Forth and Set the World on Fire”**

## **Ignatius**

The great gift of education is not the accumulation of facts and statistics but the lighting of the fire of learning, discovery and joy.”

Maria Montessori

## Resources

- A Jesuit Education Reader by George W. Traub, S.J.
- Lighting the Way, Incorporating Jesuit Values as a Graduate Student
- Do You Speak Ignatian? By George W. Traub, S.J.
- The Gifts of the Ignatian Heritage Flyer