

# *East Fort Worth Montessori Academy*



## Statement on Inequality

The last few weeks have been traumatic. As a staff and a community, we have felt the unrest and have joined together in grief and outrage. At East Fort Worth Montessori Academy, we know that biases are inherent in our world, including biases for or against racial/ethnic backgrounds, culture, language, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure, cognitive or physical ability, economic class, and religion. We recognize that every person, staff, student, and family, experiences privilege, and oppression differently. It is our duty as educators, especially Montessori educators, to ensure our staff and environment are prepared to be an inclusive and safe space for all members of our community. Furthermore, it is our duty to seek out opportunities for our students that they might not otherwise have had and to empower them to have a voice in the world we are collectively creating.

The Montessori Method was founded on ideas of peace and equality. East Fort Worth Montessori Academy was established to provide children of all races, religions, and economic backgrounds the opportunity to receive a high-quality Montessori education, equivalent to a private Montessori education. For more than 24 years, we have been committed to exposing our students to varied life experiences and to develop the skills and characteristics such as non-violent conflict resolution, civility in personal behavior, acceptance of ethnic and cultural differences, compassion in human relations, and respect for the ecology of the physical environment that will enable them to contribute to a better society.

Montessori education is always seeking to best prepare students to be successful in the world they will live in. This past year, as we considered the world our students will live in, we were challenged to revise the mission statement we had proudly held for more than 20 years. It now reads EFWMA is committed to developing holistic students who will drive change in the world. This mission is now more important than ever.

As a school community, we commit to:

- Engage in anti-bias and anti-racism education at all levels of our district.

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- Incorporate Social-Emotional Learning practices that create caring, just, inclusive, and healthy communities that support all individuals in reaching their fullest potential.
- Support each other in recognizing and dismantling our personal biases and prejudices.
- Actively celebrate the contributions of all races and cultures and honor the diversity of our students, staff, and families through lessons, experiences, and events.
- Apply a lens of equity and inclusion to strengthen all programs, policies, and practices.

Anti-bias/anti-racism work is important and necessary work that EFWMA is, and has always been, engaged in. We will not tolerate racism or inequality within our district. We will work together with families to find ways to combat injustice in the larger community and to bring a deeper awareness of injustice on a global scale. We will seek out age-appropriate lessons and experiences to teach our students how to recognize injustice and take peaceful action to drive change and thus empower them to shape the world they will one day inherit.

***“An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves...the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.”***

**– Maria Montessori**

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