



MAESA 2021 Early Childhood Educators' Conference, Nov 5, 2021

Hosted By
Washington Episcopal School
5600 Little Falls Parkway, Bethesda, Maryland



Keynote Address: "Helping Students Learn to Celebrate Self and Others"

Erica Thompson, Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School.

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that she is someone today."
- Stacia Tauscher

"Children want the truth. Children deserve the truth. And children can handle the truth."
- Carole Boston Weatherford

These two quotations are the inspiration for the keynote address. Our youngest students are developing their individual identities. Each day they are learning something new, developing habits, and picking up cues and clues. As educators we are instrumental in that development. Each child should be celebrated for who they are, but they are also beginning to recognize who they are relative to others. Growing bodies of research have shown us that students notice differences at very young ages. How can we work to celebrate those differences and learn about each other? How can we give young students the facts and information that will help them understand themselves and those differences? Sharing stories from her personal as well as professional life, Erica will engage our members about how starting these conversations at the youngest ages is essential to our work as we develop students to be confident, empathetic, and successful in our schools and beyond.

Erica Thompson is Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School. She has over 25 years' experience in various capacities at independent schools. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and received her MA in teaching and curriculum from Loyola of Maryland. She has presented workshops around areas of Diversity and Inclusion locally and nationally. Additionally, she is a parent to two teenagers (who have informed her work). She is passionate about helping students on their identity journeys and working with teachers to help facilitate that journey.

Following the keynote address the MAESA Conference offers (3) 1-hour rotations:

Rotations 1 & 3 conference attendees will choose two workshops from the listing on p3 of this document.

Rotation 2 all participants will engage in the **Educators' Cafe Sessions** centered around the following prompt:

As we (hopefully) move on from the pandemic - or at least some aspects become our 'new normal' - how do we assess and document children's growth and development, how do we adjust our practice to meet their needs, and how do we report progress and attainment to families?



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MAESA 2021 Early Childhood Educators' Conference Registration Form

Cost: Members - \$75.00 includes lunch / Non Members - \$100.00 includes lunch

Deadline to register is October 25, 2021

School Name + Head or Contact Name: _____

School Contact E-mail Address: _____

Number of Total Attendees: _____

Registration Fee will mail ____ or ____ pay by credit card? Please select payment option and list amount \$_____

It is the expectation that all participants attending are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. All state and local mandates will be enforced and wearing a face covering will be required while attending the conference.

Registrant's Name	Age You Teach	Choose TWO workshops <small>(Indicate using workshop number)</small>	Dietary Request (eg. Vegan or GF)
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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Schools may mail or email a copy of the registration form to maesaschools@gmail.com or use [this google form](#) to register faculty. Checks may be mailed to MAESA, Attn: Katherine Murphy, 3928 Colonel Ellis Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. If you wish to pay by credit card, contact us at maesaschools@gmail.com to arrange.

MAESA 2021 Early Childhood Educators' Conference Agenda for November 5, 2021

<i>8:00-8:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Participants Check-in & Continental Breakfast</i>
<i>8:45-10:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Welcome & Keynote Address</i>
<i>10:15-11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Workshop Rotation #1</i>
<i>11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Lunch with optional affinity/colleague tables</i>
<i>12:00 -1:15 p.m.</i>	<i>Educators Café Rotation #2</i>
<i>1:15-2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Workshop Rotation #3</i>
<i>2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Turn in conference evaluation and receive certificate</i>

Please choose TWO workshops to attend from the offerings below. During the Educators' Café session participants will be grouped into cohorts with others teaching the same aged children.

Workshop 1

Presenter/School: Kaitlyn Hay, Visual Arts Teacher, Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School

Title/Description: Using Art to Strengthen Your Classroom Community of Young Learners.

Join visual arts teacher Kaitlyn Hay for a session on how to deploy the most salient aspects of visual arts in your own classrooms and subject areas. Art is a powerful tool for expressing identity, building empathy and appreciation for the identities of others, and fostering respect and inclusivity-- with the added benefit of fine motor practice! Our session begins with a brief guided drawing that will set the stage for how art can be a channel by which you build and strengthen your classroom community of young learners. No arts background or particular level of skill necessary – come as you are!

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum, Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Workshop 2

Presenter/School: Alexis Doyle, Associate Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Washington Episcopal School

Title/Description: Teaching Page-By-Page: How Children's Literature Can Be Used To Teach Children Valuable Lessons.

Through this workshop, educators will learn the importance of using children's books to teach children about lessons and issues they may face, such as family dynamics, different cultures, friendship, and accepting one another for who we are, and what makes us special and unique. Throughout the presentation, I will provide examples of children's books that discuss these different issues, and give ideas for educators on how they can present these books to their students, and some activities and discussions they can have and do based off of the books. My hope is that educators will walk away from this workshop with both some ideas for books that can be added to their classroom libraries, and how they can use and present these books to their students in an age-appropriate way, depending on the grade level.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum, Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Workshop 3

Presenter/School: The Rev. Dr. Lisa Barrowclough, Chaplain, Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School

Title/Description: Exercising our Attitudes of Gratitude: A Firm Foundation for Service Learning.

This workshop will introduce our "Thankful Thursday" programming - the "pivot" of service learning forced by covid that has turned out to be the most successful, meaningful, and age-appropriate service learning I have ever experienced with young children. In a post-pandemic world we dream of this getting even better, and I feel certain that the student-directed/driven nature of our work

will only become more meaningful as time goes on and this work becomes habitual. In this session I will share resources, stories, data, and research that guide our program development.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum, Community; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum, Building Family and Community Relationship

Workshop 4

Presenter/School: Cindy Gunja and Iesha Myhand, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

Title/Description: "Building Foundations for Positive Identity Development during the Foundational Years"

With the state of race relations in our country right now, this feels like an especially opportune time to further anti-racist work in our classrooms. Many of us find ourselves wondering: What can I do as an early childhood educator? How do I put my anti-bias ideals into practice? Join us to learn how PK teachers, Cindy Gunja and Iesha Myhand, have guided their classes in beginning to explore identity, including race, religion, ability, and gender, as their way of using our collective platform of education to change the course of the future. We will provide examples of practical curriculum ideas from our classroom and provide time for participants to collaborate and make plans for their own practice.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum, Community; OSSE District of Columbia, Diversity: Family, Language, Culture and Society

Workshop 5

Presenter/School: Sam Mason, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

Title/Description: Early Childhood Outdoor Education & Sustainability

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School has moved to a 100% outdoor science curriculum for grades N-1. During our Early Childhood Outdoor Education & Sustainability workshop, we will discuss tips, ideas, and best practices for taking students outside in a meaningful way. These will be included but not be limited to Classroom management outside, fostering a love of nature, creating an ideal outdoor learning space, and creating faculty and staff buy-in.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Workshop 6

Presenter/School: The Rev. Kristen Pitts, Washington Episcopal School, Chaplain

Title/Description: Chapel Every Day: Integrating children's spirituality into the classroom

Children's spiritual growth is as vital to their healthy development as their intellectual and emotional growth. As educators in Episcopal schools we can facilitate that growth not only in our chapel and religion programs, but also throughout the student experience. In this workshop we will discuss recent research around the spiritual development of young children and explore diverse resources and strategies to integrate into your classroom to support your students as they connect to their inner selves and build the foundations for a healthy lifelong spirituality.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum, Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health

Workshop 7

Presenter/School: Katie Rothwell, Washington Episcopal School

Title/Description: Stick Play: A Tool for Hands on Learning

Inspired by the children's story, "Not A Stick" by Antoinette Portis, come and learn about the oldest toy in the world, the stick! During this workshop we will discover the 5 steps to safe stick play on the playground, as well as how to incorporate sticks into your curriculum and classroom, using literature, art, and inquiry-based thinking through observation and exploration. This workshop is geared towards Pre-K and Kindergarten ages.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia; Curriculum

Workshop 8

Presenters/School: Courtney Clark & Janice Davis, Washington Episcopal School Art Teachers

Title/Description: Art in the Art Room and Beyond: Cross-Curricular Connections

WES art teachers will share the benefits of cross-curricular opportunities in the art room. By linking visual arts to other subject areas, cross-curricular learning excites and connects students in a multi-sensory way. Learning kinesthetically, visually, and auditorily, creates deeper understanding and retaining of information. Workshop participants will see examples of cross-curricular art projects and identify ways to collaborate with members of their team.

Cross-curricular projects such as artist's statements, use of the body/kinesthetic, using self to expand understanding, natural science, culture, prior knowledge/ experiences/ perspectives/personal

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Workshop 9

Presenter/School: Katherine Owens, Washington Episcopal School

Title/Description: How Do We Prepare Students for their Future?

This hands-on session covers the importance of fostering versatile competencies in students by supporting transdisciplinary thinking, curiosity, and creative problem-solving. STEM teacher, Katherine Owens, explores techniques to engage and inspire students in any discipline. Using her STEM class as an example, see how one teacher scaffolds her curriculum to bring excitement and meaning to each class, while intertwining standards. Katherine leverages a career in business development to educate and advocate the importance of modernizing education to meet students where they are and support the workforce demands of the 21st century.

The broad concepts and activities are applicable for anyone in education, especially those in PK and up. Activities can be scaled depending on the age of the students. Participants will have the chance to engage in 5 hands-on projects.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Workshop 10

Presenter/School: Dani Boarman, St. John's Parish Day School Assistant Head of School

Title/ Description: Minding Social and Emotional Well-being

As educators we know the importance of our students' social and emotional well-being. Taking the time to foster their emotional intelligence is crucial for their development. In this workshop, we will explore how to introduce and foster social and emotional well-being in preschoolers as well as learn helpful strategies to create an environment of mindfulness. We will share a variety of proven resources and ideas and end with Q & A time.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health

Workshop 11

Presenter/School: Gregory Wright, St. John's Parish Day School , Director of Auxiliary Programs & Information Literacy

Title/Description: "Tech Time": Balancing Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom and Beyond

"Kids are always on their (parents') devices!"

"I don't have enough time (for technology) in my classroom!"

If you've uttered these statements, you are not alone. These contradictory statements juxtapose the sentiments of teachers and parents alike regarding the pervasive nature of technology in and out of the classroom. In this workshop, we will review current literature and standards-based practices for incorporating technology into the early childhood classroom and explore "Apps," programs, and other "tech toys" that will enhance your classroom... and beyond!

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Curriculum

Workshop 12

Presenter/School: Deborah Weinberger Washington Episcopal School, school counselor

Title/Description: You Can't Add When You're Sad or Mad: Supporting the Mental Health of Students and Teachers

At the time of this presentation, students and teachers will have been back at school for two months and dealing with Covid for 20 months. This session will touch on the mental and physical exhaustion that many teachers and students may still be feeling from the past two school years and provide strategies which can immediately be implemented into the classroom. There will be time at the end of the session for discussion.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Child Development; OSSE District of Columbia: Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health

Workshop 13

Presenters/School: St. Stephen's & St. Agnes/ Michelle Bruch, Lynne Lucas & Skylé Pearson

Title/Description: Laying a Strong Foundation for Young Mathematicians

Join St. Stephens & St. Agnes School Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten educators, Skylé Pearson, Michelle Bruch, and Lynne Lucas as they share their passion for math education in the early years. This presentation will spotlight research and offer strategies and tips to support teachers as they instruct, assess, differentiate, and supplement their curricular approaches. The presenters will discuss why a strong foundation in mathematics is important, how to incorporate daily math routines, and what resources and tools support their teaching. They will offer interactive, small group opportunities for participants to explore engaging math games and connect with colleagues. Participants will leave this session with renewed confidence in their ability to meet the diverse needs of their students, and with ideas for activities and games involving minimal preparation designed to develop confidence and competence in young mathematicians. This workshop is ideal for pre-school, kindergarten, and first grade educators.

Core Knowledge Areas: Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: curriculum

Workshop 14

Presenter/School: Caitlin Lennon, Physical Education Instructor, Washington Episcopal School

Title/Description: Fun Activities and Games for Building Confidence and Character

Physical Education is important for building strength and agility, but it is even more important to help build confidence in our younger students and foster their social and mental wellness. Physical Education is about having fun, being safe and building a love for physical activities that can be enjoyed outside of the classroom. In this workshop, you will be learning and participating in a variety of fun activities and games that you can take back to your own classroom and share with your students. Come prepared to be active!

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE: Health/Safety/Nutrition, Curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Health, Safety and Nutrition

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Rotation # 2 FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS – Teachers will be grouped into cohorts based on the ages they teach. Educators' Cafe (Modeled on the [WorldCafé](#) protocols for collaborative engagement)

Come and engage in some collaborative and creative dialogue around a question that really matters to our work as Early Childhood Educators - *How do we know where children are in their learning and what do we do with this information?*

These past eighteen months have been perhaps the most challenging we have known as a professional community. With children attending school, in person and online, in hybrid and in quarantine, children's learning journeys have been quite varied. As we (hopefully) move on from the pandemic - or at least some aspects become our 'new normal' - how do we assess and document children's growth and development, how do we adjust our practice to meet their needs, and how do we report progress and attainment to families?

Using [WorldCafé](#) protocols, teachers will group at tables and debate and discuss a number of questions around this topic. Groups will be dynamic and the sessions will be paced and active.

If you are able to, please bring artefacts, samples of documentation methods/protocols to share with the group.

The World Café is built on the assumption that people already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges; that the answers we need are available to us; and that we are wiser together than we are alone.

Core Knowledge Areas: MSDE Child Development, curriculum; OSSE District of Columbia: Observing, Documenting and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families