

“Dr. Montessori believed each generation of children brings renewed hope for a more peaceful world. But so often in our practice we make the mistake of isolating peace as a separate curricular area. As children move from respecting their physical space to respectful collaboration, from projecting their own desires for peace and social justice to leading that change, they will come to understand that conflict is an opportunity for growth and understand their own potential for leadership.” <https://amshq.org/Educators/Community/Peace>

**2020 EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION COMMITTEE:
SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT***

This is an intense time, experienced differently for each individual, yet, we are all seeing a shift in our society. This moment in time does not exist in isolation; it is the culmination of millions of moments taking place during a 400 year-long struggle for a racially equitable country.

When European immigrants colonized the indigenous lands we now live and forced African people into chattel slavery, they did so while promulgating ideals such as “freedom of speech” and “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. Though this country and the world has changed dramatically, those with power and privilege continue to inflict, justify, or ignore the suffering of others when it is beneficial to them. Racism and anti-blackness is in the water we are ALL swimming in, and despite our best intentions, we may unintentionally reinforce it with our unexamined actions and unconscious biases.

As Montessorians, we understand the importance Dr. Montessori placed on developing a pluralistic community and working to create a more just world.

Despite all the challenges we are coping with right now, from pandemic scares to financial hardships and social isolation, we must stay in community and in conversation. Peace cannot be achieved merely through an absence of conflict, it can only be reached after we have worked hard, together, for real JUSTICE.

EPMS is committed to being in partnership with all of our students and their families as we build capacity to “be part of the change we wish to see in the world”. The staff will engage in ongoing professional development, ensure a culturally relevant and responsive curriculum, and foster spaces for reflection and dialogue with the adult community. We encourage you to explore suggested books and readings, share posts on social media, and join us for a speaker series where we can look deeper, ask hard questions, and build our comfort in talking to our children about race and diversity. Like we hope our children will do, we can also learn by DOING to lead us and our children toward a future we can all be proud of.

- *Created by the EPMS Community Connection Committee in conjunction with Dr. Lizette Dolan, who has worked with the Eagle Peak Montessori Community in Anti Bias training.*