
A Framework for Peace

— Establish an Outline to Grow
Your Own Peace Curriculum —

Margaret Mc Donald, UMC Fall Workshop 2021

Creating Curriculum

1. Principle & Purpose- the intent
2. Entitlement & Enrichment- the student offer
3. Breadth & Balance- curate the content
4. Teaching Narrative- the delivery
5. Resources- high quality and practical
6. Review & Evaluate- decide what works well and where there is room for improvement

The goal of this workshop...



Is for each participant to create the foundation for a year long curriculum of peace studies!

A foundation that you can take back to your colleagues to refine, expand and customize for your school!

Why bother with a framework?

- A framework, like a lesson plan, provides you with clarity for your work.
- Most importantly it will allow for continuity to occur in this work at all levels.
- As the students move through each program at your school, the framework will ensure that they will have ever expanding opportunities to absorb, assimilate and apply the concepts and practices of your peace curriculum.

and...

Prepared Environment!

A framework that is known and applied schoolwide allows you and your colleagues to prepare and maintain a school environment that nurtures a culture of cooperation and compassion.

Five Areas of Awareness

1. Self Awareness
2. Community Awareness
3. Communication Awareness
4. Cultural Awareness
5. Environmental Awareness



The Intent

Identify the culture you want to promote

Think in terms of

- Students
- Staff



1. Self Awareness

- Self-Awareness means having a clear perspective of your person.
- This includes being aware of your strengths and weaknesses, thoughts, beliefs, motivations and feelings.
- Being self-aware allows you to understand others, see how they perceive you and recognize your attitudes and responses to them.

Self Awareness- Practical Life

“A child who becomes a master of his acts through long and repeated exercises [of practical life], and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline.”-The Discovery of the Child, 5/93

Points to Consider

- Grace & Courtesy
- Circle time thoughts
- Silence Game
- Lesson Etiquette
- Large & Authentic Works
- Service Opportunities

Self Awareness- Universal Values

Identification and exploration of universal values provides a student with specific moral targets to aim for as they mature and character develops.

Respect

Perseverance

Love

Points to Consider

- Translate concepts into actions, experiences
- Model

Self Awareness- Emotional Literacy

Emotional Literacy is the ability to recognize, understand and express emotions. The ability to be flexible without sacrificing your own needs or compromising your own integrity are indicators of a positive level of emotional literacy.

Points to Consider

- Facial Expressions & body language
- Techniques to manage emotions
- Opportunities to predict & speculate related to class readings
- Facilitate sympathy
- Role Play!

Self Awareness- Creative Expression

Creativity is one of the most powerful forces on earth. Creative expression can bring joy and fulfillment. Each student needs to be introduced to as many of the creative arts as possible in order to allow his future teen and adult self to pursue healthy pastimes and lead a balanced life.

Points to Consider

- Make Arts and Handwork a dynamic part of your classroom
- Plan for a whole year to cover a variety of handcrafts and skills
- Read and encourage writing poetry
- Imagination...

2. Community Awareness

- While the activities of self-awareness nurture the inner spirit of the individual, community awareness focuses on guiding the outer manifestation of the spirit in a social and communal setting.
- Community awareness facilitates the interpersonal relationships within a community, brings a greater sensitivity to and understanding of others and provides the student with a sense of identity.
- Community Awareness encompasses: Community Rules, Community Discussions, Community Events and Service Learning.

Community Awareness- Community Rules

Pardon my soap box here...

- *There must be regular presentation of the desired behaviors and consistent follow through.*
- *In order to be successful in follow-through, staff must develop discriminating and constant observation skills.*
- *Children learn very quickly if a rule or procedure is “real” or just “theory”; timely, consistent and firm redirection is necessary in order to establish new habits.*
- *Being firm is not being mean.*
- *Always follow up with a student who struggles in meeting expectations, do not assume that they will recognize what needs improving or are able to set a realistic goal with which to improve.*

Community Awareness- Community Rules

Points to Consider

- Give time and attention into creating community agreements
- Graphic organizers help provide focus
- Students voices must be heard
- Return to the ground rules again and again
- Living document- open to questioning, evaluating, refining and changing.

Community Awareness- Community Dialogue

Gathering for discussion, problem solving, sharing, etc., provides the students with a place and time to voice their opinion and be heard. As children feel heard and understood, they feel affirmed and assured. Their individual identity becomes stronger and subsequently they can give more of themselves to the community.

- Dr. Jim McFarland-Climate, Process, Identity & Relationship Community Building Process Model

Community Awareness- Community Dialogue

Points to Consider

- Community Meetings
- Acknowledgements & Observations
- Encourage Contribution- volunteering not delegating!
- Socratic dialogue
- Interactions- hug pass, break bread...

Community Awareness- Community Events

- Community events are designed to help develop identity, loyalty and trust.
- Whole-school events help the students to understand that they belong to a larger community that cares about them and supports them.
- Parents may only attend if they understand the value and necessity of attending. We must be mindful of providing our families with information regarding the purpose of each event.

Points to Consider- Tradition; Direct aim/Indirect aim; Community service

3. Communication Awareness

Effective communicators are those that have a balance of assertiveness and responsiveness.

- In this case, assertiveness means the ability to: make requests; disagree; express personal rights and feelings; initiate, maintain or disengage from conversation; and stand up for oneself without attacking.
- Responsiveness, means the ability to: be sensitive to the communication of others; a good listener; make others comfortable in communicating; and recognize the needs, feelings and desires of others.

Talk it Through a Three Period Lesson

- **Period One- The Introduction.** Provide the language and model the process.
- **Period Two- Recognition and Association.** The adult supports the students by observing the progress of the students and reviewing and reinforcing where needed.
- **Period Three- Recall.** The adult should only move on to the third period when they are sure that the children will succeed.

The ultimate goal is to help the students to master the process for themselves, moving onto a new period too soon sets the students up for failure and ongoing frustration necessitating frequent adult intervention and dependence on the adult to problem solve.

Communication Awareness- Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution should be modeled, practiced and consistently used throughout school life. At the start of the year the community should review the process of mediation so differences between individuals can be handled in a timely and effective manner. It should be noted that a mediator (teacher or an experienced student) always oversees the **Work-it-Out process.**

Communication Awareness- Conflict Resolution

Points to Consider

- Conflict resolution requires time and regular attention
- Develop materials for your school that could be of use during the process
- Privacy

4. Cultural Awareness

Cultural Awareness involves activities and experiences that bring a greater understanding, sensitivity and appreciation for people and customs of other cultures.

The Montessori cultural curriculum has well-developed materials and activities that support the study of people and nations but we should be aware of ensuring that we keep the experiences meaningful and appropriate.

Points to Consider

- Look to your own community
- Consider the audience
- Incorporate v appropriate

5. Environmental Awareness

Environmental Awareness brings greater understanding, sensitivity and appreciation of the environment. Our connection and responsibilities to our surroundings are strengthened.

Points to Consider

- Weekly hikes or neighborhood nature walks-get out there.
- Make observation, sketching, meditating in the garden a possibility.
- Encourage stewardship
- Compost
- Reduce, Reuse & Recycle – don't forget the first two Rs

The Prepared Environment

Points to Consider

- Make a regular time for peace.
- Make specific places for peace.
- Ask for donations of books that promote peace.
- Be proactive in setting up systems and responses that provide for peace.
- Provide closure and follow through to issues and problems.
- Have a balance of natural materials and manmade materials.
- Have a balance of one person and shared activities.
- Materials that nurture: Quiet-labyrinth; Acknowledgement-doves; Consideration-massage; Focus-egg timer; Self Care- rice heat pad.

The Prepared Environment- The Prepared Adult

The adult provides the connection between the student and the curriculum. It follows that the preparation, roles and responsibilities of the adults of the school are essential components of the prepared environment and therefore the Peace Education process. It is the adults in the environment who model the behaviors and attitudes that we are encouraging the students to emulate and so we must make a conscious and concerted effort to prepare for this important role.



To Conclude

Don't forget to review and evaluate...

I gift you my [framework](#) to help guide your own efforts.

Thank you and may peace be with you,
margaretmcdonald@mcssl.com

