

# FCS Montessori

February 2023

MONTESSORI  
FOR FLINT



## Notable Black Women in Montessori History



"PINK TOWER AND BROWN STAIRS"—Ms. Mae Gadpaille, Montessori Family Center director, gives introduction to decimal system and geometry by means of graded cubes to Arthur Richardson, 6; Clavain Aiken, 5, and Sarah Pruitt, 4.



**Mae Arlene Gadpaille (1905-1998)** - One of the earliest Montessori Schools in the U.S., The Montessori Family Center, was founded in 1964 by Mae Arlene Gadpaille and located in Roxbury, MA. Gadpaille fought hard to provide affordable and quality pre-school to the neglected Roxbury community. Her fight not only involved constant fund-raising, but also appearing before the United States Senate to receive Head Start Program funding. She felt strongly that a quality early childhood education focused on Montessori principles could become an extension of the civil rights movement. “My job is to wake up America, and we can, if we wake up every child under six.” - Mae Arlene Gadpaille

Mae Arlene Gadpaille founded and taught at one of the earliest M  
**Roslyn D. Williams (1921-1997)** - A native New Yorker and education advocate in Harlem, Roslyn Williams had read about Montessori education in the Chicago Defender. Taking Maria Montessori to heart when she said ‘You must fight for the rights of the child’, Williams took action to improve her own children’s preschool opportunities. She took part in experimental Montessori classrooms known as the Urban Child Program in 1964, located in a Harlem housing project. When this program ended, she formed, along with other parents, the Central Harlem Association of Montessori Parents, Inc. (CHAMP, Inc.) in 1968. Their goal was to continue offering a racially integrated Montessori experience. Eventually, Williams became the face of the entire CHAMP organization and added a Teacher Education Program to their list of initiatives.

To read more about Gadpaille, Williams, and others, check out this [Working Timeline of BIPOC leaders of Montessori Education](#)

## What's happening in the Montessori Classrooms?

**Ms. Nadia's class went sledding on the DTM hill!**



*"Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and when the grass of the meadows is wet with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning." ~ Maria Montessori*

**Ms. Stinson's class is busy doing all sorts of math work!**



*"The child who concentrates is immensely happy." - Maria Montessori*

## *People to Know at DTM*

Ms. Regina Madison ([rmadison@flintschools.org](mailto:rmadison@flintschools.org))

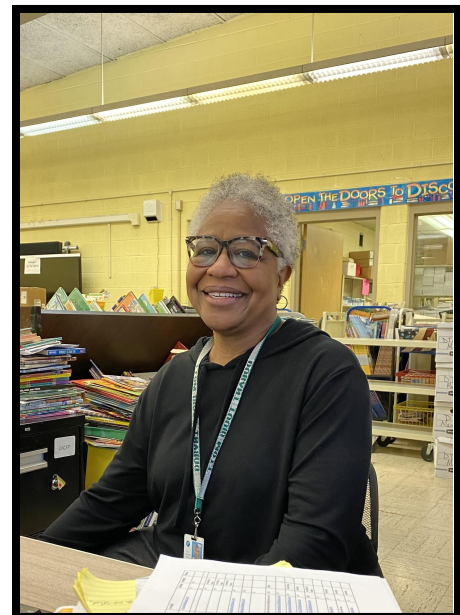


If you have ever had to call or visit the main office at DTM chances are you have interacted with our secretary, Ms. Madison. As a lifelong resident of Flint, Ms. Madison began her career at FCS 19 years ago and has been in her current position at DTM for 8 years. Although her official title is “secretary” we all know that she handles any and everything that comes at her in the main office. She even admits that she does “everything necessary to make sure students and staff have what they need to get through the day”. For Ms. Madison, it is the students and staff that she loves most about her job. Given the opportunity to advise parents, she would tell them to take the time to know the school rules and to follow them. A little trivia about Ms.

Madison: she is an international high stakes bingo player!?!

Ms. Wendy Johnson ([wjohnson@flintschools.org](mailto:wjohnson@flintschools.org))

Ms. Wendy, as she is called at DTM, is known by students as the Librarian but is so much more. In fact, if you drive by the canopy to drop-off your student(s) in the morning, you may have noticed Ms. Wendy outside greeting students *by name* and with a **big smile**. Every week our Montessori students go to see Ms. Wendy to receive guidance in picking out appropriate reading material for the week. When Ms. Wendy semi-retired 5 years ago from the non-profit sector, she wanted to work with children to pass on her love for reading. She came to FCS as a literacy tutor and then transitioned into her current position. Ms. Wendy is here for the students. She wants them to know that they can be anything and live anywhere and wants to help give them the skills to do so. When asked what Ms. Wendy loves about her job, she answers, “The children. The children are beautiful flowers and I want to be here to nurture them and help them grow”. An appropriate analogy from Ms. Wendy as she is an avid gardener, particularly of flowers, in her spare time.



# Opportunities

Interested in being more involved?

There is a monthly Parent Advisory Meeting where we meet together to share information, ask questions, share ideas, and contribute our skills and talents for the benefit of the program

For more information

Email:

[flintmontessori@gmail.com](mailto:flintmontessori@gmail.com)

Did you know....you can look up the breakfast and lunch menus using [Menus | School District \(nutrislice.com\)](#)?



[DTM Facebook Page](#)

[FCS Facebook Page](#)

**February 7th:** Muffins with moms, 8:00-8:45, @DTM

**February 9th:** DTM parent meeting ([lhopkins@flintschools.org](mailto:lhopkins@flintschools.org)) 3rd grade reading law. LaTausha Wilson

**February 9th:** ESSER funding community forum, 4:30pm, @Accelerated Learning Academy

**February 15th:** Montessori Parent Advisory Meeting, 4:15pm-5:15, location forthcoming

**February 16th:** City-Wide Parent Meeting, Freeman Elementary, 9:30am

**February 20th-24th:** No School, Intersession



Mr. Dean ([bdean@flintschools.org](mailto:bdean@flintschools.org)), our art teacher, is asking for donations of hot glue gun sticks and one or two more hot glue guns. In addition, if you have something "crafty" at home that you no longer want, Mr. Dean will take it!

## Mrs. Muhammad's Story of Classroom Chemistry by: Brittany Mitchell

Being the new kid in the class is an experience to which most of us can relate. Being the new teacher in a classroom full of Montessori students is a unique situation. Mrs. Muhammad is the brave parent that stepped in as substitute teacher for Mrs. Anna in a time when our Montessori program lost, not one, but two of its mainstay teachers for various reasons.

Barely a month with the DTM Staff and Mrs. Muhammad has glowing remarks for her support and welcoming. "Everyone has been very helpful. Considering this is the end of the marking period, and everyone has responsibilities... Many of the staff members have been right here to answer questions and help out." Mrs. Muhammad has received support from the DTM office staff, Mrs. Wendy, the librarian, Ms. Stinson, Ms. Josie, Ms. Rodriguez, and many others. Even Mrs. Burton has offered respite with an open-door policy. Not to mention, the wealth of support from the principal of the DTM family, Mrs. Ascencio. It takes a village to raise children and a helpful staff to support a teacher willing to lead our students.

Thankfully, Mrs. Anna set the class and her substitute teacher up for victory! Mrs. Muhammad has the curriculum for the coming months and the report cards are set up for the coming of the end of the marking periods. Everything is well-prepared and all Mrs. Muhammad has to do is follow the plan. Also, Mrs. Anna has made herself available and continues to work with Mrs. Muhammad to get the assignments graded in unison with her style of teaching.

Both ladies are working as a dynamic duo to keep cohesion in this time of transition.

The students surely miss Mrs. Anna a great deal. Mrs. Muhammad has been able to play video messages from Mrs. Anna for the students to keep her positive energy in the classroom. Overall, Mrs. Muhammad sees our Montessori 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders as well-adjusted under the circumstances. She has even been able to introduce them to one of her favorite science subjects, Chemistry. With the help of a Montessori grandma, Ms. Sonia Sims-Aikins, our new teacher has acquired lab coats, goggles, and gloves for the whole class. Upon completion of the rules of the lab, our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> split will begin expanding into new science with a new teacher to guide them into the new year.

2023 is going to be full of surprises but we can count on the positive influence of Mrs. Anna holding true. Mrs. Muhammad is carrying the torch with an open-mind and a brave heart. She says "I am open to suggestions and criticism, open to growth and help. Any comments or ideas that she may not have remembered are welcomed.

Anyone that has something that they would like to offer, please do."

Final Note To Parents from Mrs. Muhammad: If you have an afternoon free, please don't hesitate to reach out and come sit in with the students on an afternoon.



Mrs. Muhammad

FCS Montessori Program

Located in Durant Tuuri Mott Elementary School  
1518 University Ave, Flint, MI, 48504