



Hampton Roads International Montessori School

3/17/2021

Hampton Roads International Montessori School is deeply saddened and disturbed by the tragic loss of those in Atlanta, Georgia on Wednesday. Although the motivation of the senseless and horrific crimes is yet unknown, these acts were atrocious and reprehensible. We support our Asian-American community members and denounce the persecution and violence that has been escalating over the past year.

HRIMS and the Montessori community believe that violence, regardless of cause, has no place in our society and in our world, and we revisit the teachings of Maria Montessori in developing a deep appreciation and respect for our differences. We will continue to support others so that all may be safe and live vibrant and dignified lives.

Over one hundred years ago, Dr. Maria Montessori wrote, "The child is both the hope and a promise for mankind."

Montessori children gain a world view from a young age. They begin to realize that they are part of a larger community. Montessori's goal was to promote global understanding and international peace. There are many activities and experiences that allow children to be exposed to different people and their cultures. This unique opportunity allows them to see the similarities as well as the differences of people, showing how our differences allow us to work together, to be stronger, and to create more. This develops into true appreciation and respect.

Montessori said, "*Establishing lasting peace is the work of education.*" (Education and Peace, p viii, Foreword)

As we continue to mourn the loss of those eight individuals, our hearts go out to their families and friends, and all those touched by their lives. We will continue to work to develop an understanding, an appreciation, a respect, and a love for mankind in the next generation in the hopes that our education will help reduce, and possibly end, such tragedies from happening.