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Crystal Lake Montessori School Hosts International Training Center

School may be out, but the learning continues at Crystal Lake Montessori School.

Since 2004, CLMS, located on Country Club Road between Crystal Lake and Woodstock, has hosted the Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center. Teachers come from around the world to receive training in Montessori methods as they work toward their certification from the American Montessori Society.

Many of the trainers are CLMS's own certified staff who share their classrooms, materials, and expertise with their newer counterparts in the profession.

The joy and reward for these teacher trainers is evident.

As Gwen Harris, CLMS middle school teacher and 14-year trainer for MMTTC states, "I don't really view it as working during my break, but as a time to get to meet new, exciting people who are in the initial stage of falling in love with the Montessori Method. It is an amazing opportunity for me to be able to share my passion with others!"

"Training teachers is a great privilege," says Michele Melvin, CLMS Assistant Administrator and MMTTC guest speaker. "As we share our extraordinary staff and facilities, we set off an enormous ripple effect that allows us to have a hand in the classroom experience of children hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of miles away."



Now entering its 29th year, CLMS was founded by Woodstock's Penny Hildebrandt-Cichucki and offers Montessori programs for children birth through eighth grade. To learn more about Montessori education, visit www.clms.org or contact Pamela C. Zirko, CLMS Administrator and MMTTC trainer for 19 years, at 815-338-0013.

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Gwen Harris (left) of Crystal Lake Montessori School in Woodstock works with Lynn Bensen (right) of Florida and Justin Guleserian (center) of Arizona at the Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center hosted by CLMS each summer.