

## Nurturing the Leaders of Tomorrow

Then Ambassador to the United Nations from the Dominican Republic, Francis Lorenzo, a champion of MMUN, portrayed the importance of our mission of nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. “The next generation of leaders will come from this program, and they will be sitting here. It will be their responsibility to complete what we have left undone.”

### Who are the Mentors?

Participating teachers and their student delegates are the mentors in the MMUN program. Once a year, a team of experienced Montessori teachers and MMUN alumni join the MMUN staff for a Leadership Institute to further develop the program and become members of the next year’s Dais. As Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Rapporteurs they assist new participating teachers and schools in adapting the program to meet their needs. In addition, Executive Director Judith Cunningham and the academic support staff of MMUN is always there to help.

### How does Participation in MMUN Change lives?

MMUN creates a learning experience where students jump out of their skin into role-playing other world cultures. When they arrive at the MMUN Conference they transform themselves into new beings – UN Ambassadors. When they leave they are prepared to meet the global challenges of the world they will inherit.

MMUN is a true democratic experience. Students assume the rights and responsibilities of world leaders. Their imaginations propel them to co-create resolutions to our world’s most pressing problems. Their solutions may be ones never considered before and they are presented to the Secretary-General.

MMUN encourages students to know that they can make a difference. Students participate in and share their local and global social action projects. Youth leaders and international peacemakers present at the MMUN Conference.

## MMUN– A Quick Summary

- Peace Education based on Montessori learning principles.
- An education on the inter-relatedness of global issues.
- An international experience.
- All committees led by Montessorians.
- The largest Model UN program for Upper Elementary and Middle Schools with High School Students in Leadership Positions.
- Annual Conference at the UN Headquarters.
- Students, Parents and Teachers interact with real UN Ambassadors.
- Students, Teachers and Parents call MMUN, “A life-changing experience.”
- Last year more than 1250 students, teachers and parents from 9 countries participated in MMUN.
- Programs for the students include social action and leadership opportunities.
- Programs for parents help them better appreciate their child’s Montessori MUN experiences and the value of a Montessori education.
- Teacher Training Workshops for new participants, AMS Certified for Professional Development.
- An excellent credential for students when applying to Universities.



### MMUN: The Practice of Peace Education

The Montessori Model United Nations Program (MMUN) follows the work of Dr. Montessori who supported the League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations as a forum where peace could be created. She recognized the hope for peace; lay in the education of children.



## Dedication

The Montessori Model United Nations Program is dedicated to Maria Montessori's conviction that "When children are accustomed, from the earliest childhood onwards, to considering those around them as a source to help them explore the world, they are not tempted to adopt a wary or hostile attitude towards men who belong to different races or religions. At a later date, children raised according to these principles will be of great help in the construction of a peaceful society", Dr. Montessori was a principal author of the first Rights of the child in 1946 when UNESCO was founded.



## Creating MMUN

Judith Cunningham, a Montessori Educator and Head of Oak Farm Montessori School worked with UN Ambassador Francis Lorenzo to create a Montessori Model United Nations program based on Montessori learning principles. The goal was to provide students at the sensitive period for reason, justice and morality, participation in a life changing experience.

## The Growing of MMUN

In November 2006 the first MMUN Teacher training took place at the UN under the direction of Model UN students and professors. In March 2007 these teachers along with 400 student delegates simulated a real UN Working Session with the General Assembly held at the UN Headquarters. In March 2010, almost 1400 Montessori students, teachers and parents from 9 countries participated in MMUN.



## What is the Montessori Model UN Program

In its simplest form, Montessori Model UN (MMUN) is a simulation of actual UN Committees with students assuming the roles of Delegates. The students select a country other than their own to represent at the MMUN General Assembly, and must research that country's history, culture and political situation so that they can properly represent the country's interests.

In addition to learning about their selected country, the Delegates must write position papers, learn to caucus and negotiate with Delegates representing other nations and present their position in a speech.

Teachers and parents have all called MMUN, "A life-changing experience." With more than 1400 students, teachers and parents from as many as 9 nations, participating in the annual conference at the United Nations, MMUN provides a truly international experience. Schools from as far away as China, Sweden, Jordan, and Haiti have participated.

The excitement for the students of convening for their General Assembly, in the chairs of the Ambassadors, in the UN where history is made, is a memory they will carry forever.

For teachers and parents to see the growth of their student and to view them from the gallery at the United Nations is a memory that they too will cherish.

