



Community

Students learn together in communities that function like a family. Everyone has a role and is respected as a valued member of the community. Students learn from each other as well as their teachers. Intercultural's Elementary communities are named after inspirational cultural figures or concepts that reflect our values and connect to the languages students are learning.

**For the 2020-2021 school year, the communities are separated into smaller instructional groups to accommodate social distancing.*

Don Quixote de la Mancha

This Lower Elementary community is named after the Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes, first published in 1605. *Don Quixote* is considered the most influential work of literature from the Spanish Golden Age and a founding work of modern Western literature.

The story's protagonist, Don Quixote, is famous for inspiring readers to "Dream the Impossible Dream."

Paulo Freire

This Lower Elementary community is named after a Brazilian educator and philosopher who was a leading advocate for equality in education and critical pedagogy. He believed that education is a liberating and empowering force for all. Like Maria Montessori, Freire saw children as active learners and believed education should be a collaborative process between students and educators. "*People are fulfilled to the extent that they create their world*"

- Paulo Freire

HePing

Our Lower Elementary Chinese language community is called HePing which in Mandarin, simply means *peace*. Maria Montessori felt that if children are allowed to learn and develop according to the natural inner laws of development, we will see a more peaceful and enduring society. The HePing teachers strive to create a classroom community that functions as a microcosm of the peaceful world envisioned by Dr. Montessori. "*Preventing conflicts is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education.*" – Maria

Montessori



Umoja

In the Swahili language spoken in East Africa, Umoja means *unity*. This Lower Elementary community name reflects the value our students see in collaboration, cooperation and teamwork. In the Montessori environment, every student is viewed as an individual, but they are united in community. Umoja is an important value at our school. While our students are learning different languages and learning at their own pace, they actively support each other and have a deep respect for diversity.

Sequoyah

The Sequoyah Upper Elementary community takes its name from an inspirational Native American linguist. Although Sequoyah was not initially literate, he worked tirelessly to create written symbols for the 85 sounds in spoken Cherokee. He introduced the language to the Cherokee nation in 1821, and within a few years thousands of Cherokees became literate, publishing books and the first Cherokee newspaper. By 1830 the Cherokee literacy rate was higher than that of the white settlers. The teaching team hopes to inspire their students with Sequoyah's spirit of innovation and public mindedness, and to help them develop into young adults who love learning.