

Sor Juana Community

This community was named in honor of Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz, who was a Hieronymite nun in Mexico during the Baroque period. Sor Juana was also a poet and an intellectual. She had an incredible thirst for knowledge and was self-taught, educating herself from her own extensive library. She learned Latin and the indigenous language, Nahuatl. Her famous poetry and writings focused on themes including love and women's rights. Sor Juana represents the confidence and love of learning that we wish to foster in our students.

Karen Loeza - Lead Teacher

Ms. Karen Loeza was born and raised in Chicago by Mexican parents in a very culture driven household in the heart of Little Village. Having spent her childhood summers in Mexico, she feels very close to her Mexican roots. She has been with Intercultural since 2012 when she joined the team as an Extended Day and Assistant Teacher. Ms. Karen is in the final stages of completing her Montessori certification. She hopes to help create a very nurturing and creative environment in which children will find joy and comfort while learning. Ms. Karen's son, Anthony, graduated from Intercultural's primary program in Oak Park in 2016. During her free time Ms. Karen enjoys reading and taking care of her family and pets.

Rosalva Rosado - Assistant Teacher

Ms. Rosy Rosado is originally from Veracruz, Mexico. She is now entering her tenth year at Intercultural. Ms. Rosy is dedicated, calm, and loving towards her students. As a mom of two daughters, both in college, and her son in high school, she is now able to devote more time to her lifelong goal of working with children. She enjoys spending time with her family and two cats. Some of her hobbies include, baking and taking care of her many plants at home.

Fu Wa Community

Fu Wa are the "good luck dolls" who were the playful mascots of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. The 5 Fu Wa represent the Olympic rings as well as different regions of the world. Their individual designs are inspired by animals that are revered in China, as well as different Chinese cultural symbols including traditional kites, and porcelain from the Song Dynasty. At Intercultural, the Fu Wa remind us of the individuality of each child, as well as the joy of coming together as a community.



Intercultural

Montessori Language School

Jing Niu - Co-Teacher

Ms. Jing is a 3-6 Montessori certified teacher. She will be entering her 11th year of teaching at Intercultural Montessori. Ms. Jing has been the Lead Teacher in the Fu Wa classroom community for 9 years and prior to this, she was the Lead Teacher in the Long Feng classroom at the Chicago Campus. Ms. Jing came to Intercultural with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from Tianjin University China and a Master's Degree in Computer Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Ms. Jing is dedicated to the Montessori approach and Chinese language learning. She wants to provide her students with an inspiring and cultural enriched learning environment. She has a daughter who is going to college very soon. In her spare time, she loves to read books, learn Chinese culture and walk in nature with her family.

Si Yu Chen-Lutz - Co-Teacher

Ms. Siyu is Montessori certified for students 3- 6 years of age. She will be entering her tenth year at Intercultural Montessori Language School. Ms. Siyu came to Intercultural with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Guang Xi University in Nanning (China). She initially became interested in teaching through her church community school, where she worked for two years teaching students ages 4 - 7 years. Those who know Ms. Siyu know she is patient and kind and fosters a wonderful sense of community. Ms. Si Yu likes to read books , play piano, exercise, play golf with her husband, and cook in her free time.

Frida Kahlo Community

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist best known for her vibrant and colorful artwork and her bold spirit. Frida overcame a serious injury and had the courage to become a painter when very few women were respected as artists. She represents strength and individuality. The teachers chose this community name after observing how much their students enjoyed learning about Frida and her heritage.

Cossette "Coco" Avila - Lead Teacher

Ms. Cossette Avila, more commonly known as "Ms. Coco", is entering her 13th year at Intercultural Montessori Language School. Prior to becoming Montessori certified for children aged 3-6 years, Ms. Coco received excellent hands-on Montessori mentoring under several of Intercultural's master teachers. Those who have had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Coco know she is an incredibly warm and caring teacher. Her positive attitude has been an asset in creating the kind of nurturing atmosphere found in a Montessori classroom. In her free time, Ms. Coco enjoys exploring Chicago, taking photos, and spending time with her family. Her oldest child, Gigi, is in our Fu Wa community.

Mariana Angeles - Assistant Teacher

Ms. Mariana Angeles started her journey with Intercultural in 2014. She is completing her Bachelor's in Education from El Instituto De Estudios Universitarios in Mexico. Her favorite thing about working in a Montessori environment is being able to see the freedom and independence the children have in the classroom. Ms. Mariana is known for being enthusiastic about her job and patient with the students. In her spare time, Ms. Mariana enjoys spending time with her family and seeing what each new day has to offer.

Ms. Maythe Rosado - Interim Lead Teacher

Ms. Maythe is originally from Mexico. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality in Tourism from University of Euro Hispanoamericana, this experience allowed her to learn about the unique cultures and practices in different parts of the world.

Ms. Maythe came to Intercultural in January of 2019. She has worked as an Assistant Teacher, Co-lead teacher and has led Physical Education and movement classes for Primary Students. Ms. Maythe is in the final steps of completing her Montessori Certification from Seton Montessori Institute's Early Childhood training. Montessori training has been a beautiful experience for Ms. Maythe as it aligns perfectly with her way of thinking regarding children. She believes children deserve the same respect, attention, and consideration as adults.

Ms. Maythe likes to draw and is a lover of art and dance. During college she was part of the traditional Folkloric Ballet in which each song came from its own state, representing unique traditions and culture. Maythe is the proud mother of an Intercultural student. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and practicing sports, especially basketball and soccer.

Rosalia Cazares - Assistant Teacher

Ms. Rosi has been part of Intercultural since 2015. She is originally from Michoacan, Mexico. Ms. Rosi is a caring and nurturing assistant teacher and she enjoys being in the classroom helping each child live up to their potential. Being a mother of 5, Ms. Rosi has a lot of patience and a love of children. She is beloved by students and staff across the school. In her free time Ms. Rosi enjoys cooking for her family.