

SEMINAR QUESTIONS

Text(s): "Clark Montessori Secondary School" and "The Best Kindergarten You've Ever Seen" (Ted Talk)

Bridge Question

Write about a time that you had an amazing, positive experience in school.

Opening Question

Considering both "texts", what is the purpose of education?

Clustered Questions

Space

- In the Ted Talk, we see a school that looks far from the norm. How does the design of the school contribute to the purpose of the school?
- How could a school be designed in the secondary level to mirror what is happening for the children in the Ted Talk? What would be necessary to build?

Purpose

- In the text, the author wrote, "Clark places a priority on developing students' emotional competencies, building a caring community in which students feel respected, cared about, and bonded to classmates." Should this be a school's goal? What kind of environment does this create?
- The author begins the article by writing that "98 percent of its students college bound and one National Merit Finalist." Is college the goal of education? What should the goal of education be?
- The text also mentions practical life at the secondary level. Do you agree with what the article asserts is "practical life"? What would you change? What would you add?
- Would a kindergarten like the one in the Ted Talk prepare students for a school like Clark? Why or why not?

Traditional Schooling vs. Non-Traditional Schooling

- What should the role of testing be in a Montessori school?
- Using the text and your background knowledge of the Montessori philosophy, what would a Montessori University be like? What do you think the impression of that model would be?
- How is the goal of traditional schooling different than these non-traditional schooling examples that we "read" about for our seminar?

Closing Question

In one sentence, what would your ideal school look like? Feel like? Do?