Our written examinations give you the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the Montessori elementary program and your ability to communicate information clearly and appropriately in writing. The time allocation of 3 1/2 hours is intended to allow you to plan the answer, write and edit. You are permitted to leave the site to work and to refer to books and other resources.

Answers may be typed or handwritten legibly. Prepare your answer as if it is to be published and read by staff or parents at your school. Answers must be your own work and joint work is not permitted. Provide the specific source and reference for any quotes used. Write your answer on 8 1/2" by 11" sheets, with your name at the top of each page.

Before you hand in your paper, check the following:
- Proofread carefully for grammar and spelling.
- Write your name and the date at the top of this sheet, place a check mark next to the question you have chosen to answer, and staple this sheet as a cover to your answer papers. Do not add additional covers or sheet protectors.
- Make a copy of your paper.

________________________________________________________

QUESTION 6

a. Make a list of the five most important things you have learned from your Montessori elementary level teacher preparation course. Write an essay explaining why these things are important.

AND

b. Complete the attached self-assessment, using the MACTE competencies to assess your readiness to lead a Montessori elementary classroom.

________________________________________________________

For MECR instructor use:

___ Outstanding 100 pts  ___ Excellent: 90 pts  ___ Very Good 80 pts  ___ Satisfactory 70 pts

___ Return to student for revision

Comments:
Neena Massey
Exam 5

Five of the most important things I learned from Montessori elementary level teacher preparation courses.

- That staying focused in the present moment is the most important thing I can do
- Being prepared
- Capturing the imagination and interest of each child is key
- Children make the best teachers
- It is very important to become aware of learning abilities and be able to spot them before they frustrate the child

When I started working with children I learned very quickly that how I presented myself could make or break a child's day. I remember distinctly the frustration I used to have almost every morning because I was so overwhelmed and confused about how to do my job. I would rush around like a chicken with my head cut off! There were times when I may have overlooked important things like smiling and greeting the children in a cheery manner. I think that they pick up on these small messages. So basically, no matter what I am feeling, whether it's personal or professional, the utmost important part of my job is being present for the sake of the children I am around all day.

It is important to be ready and prepared for every day. I will stay in the habit of keeping, daily, weekly, monthly and yearly plans of how I plan to implement the curriculum. This keeps me consistent, varied, and more organized. I remember that in the beginning of the year I had no clue how I was going to cover the curriculum, especially since I have a unique schedule with my students. I have since learned that keeping track of my lessons in the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly manner is best for me.

I think it is quite possible for students to learn without using their imagination. BUT THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT THE RIGHT WAY FOR THEM TO LEARN! It is my goal to find a way to reach every child—whether it's someone who has a fascination for dinosaurs, attention to detail, inability to concentrate, sensitivity to noise, whatever the issue—I take it as a challenge to myself to find some kind of activity or research project that will enable the child to effectively learn while having fun, being creative and absorbing important material.

My students have taught me several things this year:
1) It's okay to be wrong
2) It's okay to be firm
3) It's okay to have high expectations
4) Consistency and consequences are essential
5) Children always have excellent ideas and solutions to problems
The one thing that I have been most frustrated with this year is that I have a student in my class who may have a learning disability. She has had some significant frustration with reading and she is about to enter 3rd grade. All year I have had different “professionals” come in to observe her and they have consistently said she just needs practice. Her parents have now decided to move her to a new school and I can’t help but think that she may have stayed had I been able to spot the problem. So I now see the importance of being equipped with the tools to help all kinds of children, especially since I am in a private school that has no staff readily available to do observations and make diagnoses.

All in all I have had most of my real life learning come from the classroom. After all is said and done, we as teachers are responsible for children’s safety, education, well being and behavior. That’s an awful lot to become aware of in a short matter of time and I am continuing to learn and grow everyday.