

SRQ MAGAZINE LEADERS IN EDUCATION – FROM CRADLE TO CAREER • MAY 2015

# LEADERS IN EDUCATION

## ROUNDTABLE



Local educational institutions are devoted to providing the highest quality in curriculum, intellectual experiences and preparedness for students of all ages. Whether you're looking for the best place to send your child for their very first day of school, perhaps in search of local organizations that specialize in differently-abled learners or continuing your own educational journey at an institution of higher learning, the Sarasota and Bradenton areas are full of world-class opportunity.



# CENTER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

MARA FULK, ADMINISTRATOR



## HOW DOES A MONTESSORI EDUCATION DIFFER FROM A TRADITIONAL LEARNING INSTITUTION?

At the heart of Montessori education is the individuality of each child. Using the guiding principles of Dr. Maria Montessori, our goal is to cultivate within each student a sense of curiosity and a well-developed sense of maturity. At the very beginning of a Center Montessori student's schooling, the child is introduced to teaching tools that engage the child and invite learning. These didactic materials serve a host of uses as the student is enabled to understand new concepts and by engaging with the materials the child is able to make generalizations beyond the scope of the materials. Upon entering a Center Montessori classroom, one is immediately struck by the openness of the room and the physical freedom it affords the child. Called a Children's House for the younger child, the four walls of our classrooms are home to children with a three-year age span. Each child plays a role in the continuum of learning by acting as a leader to the younger students through example and collaboration, understanding when to take on responsibility by serving as a mentor. This approach is a key factor in teaching collaboration and instilling a desire for lifelong learning. Through Center Montessori's state approved curriculum, there is no set ceiling to the breadth of each topic being taught. The student is not limited by the finite beginning and end of lessons within a set curriculum, but each student is encouraged to explore and continue the journey to mastery over a subject. The faculty and staff at Center Montessori make it their mission to inspire learning and promote an environment that is creative, fosters inquisitive minds, but is still nurturing and encouraging. With the newest teacher's tenure of 6 years with the school, there is a perceived passion and desire among the entire staff to watch each child learn and flourish in a community environment.

### Center Montessori School

6024 26th St W, Bradenton, FL 34207

Phone: 941.753.4987 • [www.centermontessori.org](http://www.centermontessori.org)

Center Montessori is committed to the Montessori Method of education and every classroom from toddlers to middle school is specially equipped with didactic Montessori materials. These manipulative materials make it possible for children to learn by doing rather than by being told. The materials are age appropriate and are intended to be presented to children in order to enhance their learning and awareness, first to simple concepts, and later to complicated academic ideas. In addition to these very beautiful materials, each classroom is under the direction of a certified Montessori teacher who knows the function of the materials, understands how children learn, is adept at observing and interpreting children, and is prepared to meet the educational needs of each child on an individual basis. In addition to the Montessori Method, the school is known for its success in teaching children to read and write through the phonetic approach called "Words in Color". Heavily influenced by Dr. Caleb Gattegno's work in reading and mathematics education, the school strives to subordinate teaching to learning through an individualized approach to reading and mathematics. Specially-prepared, colored reading charts enhance the children's awareness about how the letters work to form words as well as which letters are needed to write certain spelling words. Consequently, children become fluent readers and competent spellers as well as prolific writers. For mathematics, in addition to the familiar Montessori math materials, our school utilizes colored math rods, which give the children the chance to see the algebraic relationships between numbers. Children become gymnasts with numbers. Completing the Montessori curriculum are studies in music, drama, band, jazz band, chorus, Spanish immersion, foreign languages, art, art history, yoga, computer education and physical education.

# CHRISTINA N. DE GUIA, MD

CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHIATRIST

## HOW CAN WE GET HELP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS?

Navigating school years can be difficult for children struggling with behavioral or psychological conditions. And often, the issues facing children and teenagers are most noticeable in academic performance, social interactions with peers and authority figures. Dr. Christina de Guia is a board certified psychiatrist specialized in the evaluation and management of children and adolescents with common forms of psychiatric conditions including Depression, Social Anxiety, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Eating disorders, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Early Onset Psychosis, Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders. While each diagnosis is different, children experiencing any of these conditions may have difficulty concentrating or participating in a classroom setting thus affecting their grades and academic performance.

Working with young patients through therapy and various treatments can lessen the symptoms of their condition and ensure a path to improved concentration, healthy communication and clearer goals. As behavioral issues are easily affected by mood or environmental changes, Dr. de Guia meets with her patients and their families to understand the issues they are facing and develop a custom plan for growth and healing. Dr. de Guia provides problem-focused supportive psychotherapy with adolescents and adults, and can provide necessary medication for an optimal treatment plan. Developing boundaries and working with patients to establish techniques to better deal with anxiety and stress can have a profound affect on behavior, performance and easing into changes that are very marked throughout the school year. Dr. de Guia handles each patient with an expert level of care and seeks to provide a custom treatment plan that is age appropriate and balances the needs and wellbeing of the child and family. Seeing each patient holistically plays a large role in assisting them to reach their full potential in school, at home and in years to come.



### Christina M. de Guia, MD

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Christina M. de Guia is Board Certified in both Child/Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry. She grew up in Sarasota County and is happy to return to open her practice. Dr. de Guia graduated from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, completed four years of General Psychiatry Residency at the University of Virginia, and an additional two years of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry training at NYPH Columbia-Cornell. In addition to running her own private practice, she is currently on staff at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and is an FSU Clinical Professor. She has experience managing Depression, Anxiety Disorders, ADHD and Bipolar Disorder in adults and is sensitive to the issues surrounding the GLBT community. In addition, Dr. de Guia has special interest in managing peri-partum and post-partum disorders in women. Outside of the office she spends time with her family; her husband, two young children and little parti-poodle, Chewie.



# EASTER SEALS

TOM WATERS, PRESIDENT AND CEO



## SHARE THE EASTER SEALS PERSPECTIVE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD.

Early childhood development is a complex issue for all families and in particular those with special needs children. Ensuring that your child receives quality care, education and valuable life skills is a lifelong priority. By providing exceptional care through a combination of education, therapy and services, Easter Seals is able to serve the local special needs community throughout their lifespan to help all abilities shine! Easter Seals of Southwest Florida founded The Lily School –only one of two blended local preschools - to work with young children ages 0-5. With the help of occupational, speech and physical therapists, the path to learning and growth takes a specialized course for each student. The Lily School provides custom care and curriculum, parental guidance and on-site therapy for each child. Much more than a classroom, The Lily School is a place of enrichment as children develop academically, physically and socially to be kindergarten ready. One particular student was diagnosed with a speech disorder called Apraxia at 18 months of age. He experienced difficulty putting sounds and syllables

together to form words. The communication barrier with their child was heartbreaking for the parents, especially at such a critical time in language development. In just 18 months at The Lily School and thanks to a customized therapy plan, he is articulate – using multisyllabic words – and his verbal skills are superior to that of a child his age. While early care and therapies are critical to all young children, once they move on from early care, they never are forced to cycle out of Easter Seals programming due to age. After graduating from The Lily School, the organization continues to provide a path of support for all ages. Through onsite after school and summer programs, The Vocational Introduction and Preparation (VIP) Academy high school and employment partnerships, Easter Seals is able to guide their lifelong students to a life well lived.

### Easter Seals Southwest Florida

350 Braden Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34243

Phone: 941.355-7637 • [www.easterseals-swfl.org](http://www.easterseals-swfl.org)

Easter Seals Southwest Florida has been part of our community for 65 years. We offer the highest quality of care and services to children, youth and adults with special needs so that they can enjoy access, opportunities and increased life choices through education and the development of life and job skills. Easter Seals Southwest Florida is committed to remaining a leader in special needs services – an organization to which individuals and their families can turn to for resources, education and support with a continuum of care throughout their lives. The exceptional services offered across a lifetime empower individuals to live their lives to the fullest.

# LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**HOW HAS LECOM BECOME A LEADER IN MEDICAL EDUCATION?** The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), the nation's largest medical school, is educating the next generation of osteopathic physicians, pharmacists and dentists. Nearly 1,700 students attend LECOM's campus in Bradenton, Fla. Students support many non-profit organizations in their communities including the YMCA, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Manatee Solve and Turning Points. The College has established itself as a national leader in medical education through innovative, student-centered programs and by achieving a balance between excellence and affordability. The College of Medicine's Problem-Based Learning (PBL) pathway promotes critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills through a team approach. After four years, students graduate with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree.

The School of Dental Medicine also offers a PBL, patient-centered learning approach that emphasizes extensive classroom learning and clinical training. Third-year students are treating patients in group practices at the Bradenton campus. As fourth-year students, they will train in community-based dental practices in Erie, Pa., and DeFuniak Springs, Fla., thereby complementing their classroom learning while also providing dental care to underserved populations and those in need.

The School of Pharmacy offers several options for students interested in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree, including an accelerated, three-year pathway at LECOM's main campus in Erie, Pa., and a traditional, four-year program in Bradenton. LECOM also offers an online PharmD for students who require a greater degree of flexibility in their studies. More recently, LECOM began offering a Masters in Health Services Administration program. Ninety-eight percent of the program is delivered through a dynamic, distance education platform and can be completed in as little as 18 months. The MHSA program is designed for students who aspire to plan, direct, and coordinate medical and health service organizations.



## Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

5000 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Bradenton, FL 34211

Phone: 941-756-0690 • [www.lecom.edu](http://www.lecom.edu)

## LECOM School of Dental Medicine

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Phone: 941-405-1500 • [www.lecom.edu](http://www.lecom.edu)

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine is preparing the next generation of health care professionals. Established in 1992 in Erie, Pa., LECOM has grown to become the largest medical school in the country. LECOM opened a branch campus in Bradenton, Fla. in 2004, which has grown to include the College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy and School of Dental Medicine. Medical and pharmacy students receive clinical education while working alongside physicians and pharmacists in Florida's Gulf Coast communities. The School of Dental Medicine recently opened its dental group practice in Bradenton, where students – with the supervision of faculty members–offer primary care dentistry services to the public. LECOM medical school graduates have the opportunity to continue their post-graduate training locally at Manatee Memorial Hospital and Manatee Glens residency programs. A commitment to service is one of the hallmarks of LECOM's mission. Students at LECOM's Bradenton, Erie and Greensburg, Pa., campuses volunteered over 30,000 hours of service last academic year. Students support many non-profit organizations in their communities including: the YMCA, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Autism Speaks, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Turning Points. The College has been selected to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for eight consecutive years. This is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.



# NEWGATE SCHOOL

TIM SELDIN, HEAD OF SCHOOL



## NewGate School

5237 Ashton Road, Sarasota, FL 34233

Phone: 941.922.4949 • [www.newgate.edu](http://www.newgate.edu)

### HOW DOES YOUR EDUCATION MODEL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE?

We take pride in our belief that “education should be a journey, not a race.” We encourage and cultivate a spirit of interest, curiosity, imagination and a passion for doing things well and mastering skills from the earliest ages. We stress the dignity and the importance of early childhood education—that is the foundation upon which everything is built. Our style and approach to education is very child-centered and very fostering of independence and a sense of empowerment for students to find their own voice and become leaders. We love that NewGate is both an independent and international school. As an independent school, we are able to offer thoughtful curriculum not available at public schools that guides students in their love of learning from toddlerhood through high school. While independent schools are distinctly different from one another, they are similar in that they are not typically bound by the state exams. They have the freedom to prepare children for university and for life from the school's own perspective instead of from the dictate of state legislature. They survive by their ability to attract families who are looking for something different. As an international school, NewGate is very appealing to families who have moved here from around the world and are looking for an education that can transfer with them if they choose to move to another country. Our Montessori curriculum is focused on creating internationally engaged global citizens. NewGate also holds the unique honor of having been selected by the international Montessori Foundation as its Lab School which serves to develop best practices for Montessori education worldwide. NewGate is also recognized as an International Baccalaureate World School. Our high school graduates will have the opportunity to sit for the IB diploma examinations which is notable for American university admissions as IB graduates come exceptionally well prepared. NewGate's college admission and completion rate has been virtually 100% since our first graduation class in 2004.

“Montessori schools are acclaimed around the world for producing incredibly mature, responsible and fascinating young people—and we prepare them to succeed at the world's best universities.”

NewGate School is a coeducational, non-sectarian, college preparatory international Montessori school located on a private campus in Sarasota, Florida. It is authorized as an International Baccalaureate World School, offering the IB Diploma Program. NewGate is the Lab School of The Montessori Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of Montessori education in the United States and abroad. Head of School Tim Seldin is also president of The Montessori Foundation. Under his leadership the school develops curriculum and best practices for Montessori schools around the world. The goal of NewGate is to nurture intelligence, curiosity and imagination while supporting and developing each students' unique talents. Classrooms are carefully prepared environments for learning and discovery, created to facilitate student discussion and stimulate collaborative learning. There are no rows of desks facing a large blackboard, but rather warm inviting spaces filled with plants, animals, art, music and books. Much of the curriculum takes place outdoors as students learn to be stewards of their environment. NewGate teaches universal values and instills a global perspective, responsible citizenship, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

# SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

DR. JANET S. PULLEN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AS A PREDICTOR FOR FUTURE SUCCESS?** Many of us have grown up hearing of the importance of a high IQ, but emerging trends are elevating the importance of EQ (emotional intelligence). Understanding how students develop their own emotional intelligence (EQ) is moving rapidly to the forefront of the national and international educational dialogues. Research is now indicating that the EQ qualities vs. the IQ scores of our graduates are the best predictors of their success in life and at work after their school years. At Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, our curriculum is designed to provide each student with much more than can be quantified by traditional testing scores of cognitive aptitudes or achievement. We develop each student's academic intellect, critical thinking and problem-solving skills and foster communication abilities while integrating EQ activities in daily lessons and parent workshops through the school's Emotional Intelligence Initiative.

Head of School, Dr. Jan Pullen completed her Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Organization, with her dissertation focusing on Emotional Intelligence and its application in the school environment. Her studies encompassed the research of EQ pioneer Daniel Goleman and the Six Seconds Emotional Intelligence Network. Using his findings, she has effectively inserted EQ into our school communities. Today, her vision profoundly affects the lives of the faculty, students and parents of Saint Stephen's. As part of our culture, EQ allows the discussion of character and anti-bullying to emphasize understanding oneself and others, and how to be more empathetic. Teaching topics of empathy, compassion, restorative justice and resilience are very productive for our students' character development. As part of EQ, parents attend workshops and share methods of parenting that fit within the positive consideration of how children are feeling as they receive communications. Faculty professional development ensures EQ principles are delivered through instruction, communication and advisory activities. At Saint Stephen's EQ is as important as IQ!

## Saint Stephen's Episcopal School

315 41st Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209

Phone: 941.746.2121 • [www.saintstephens.org](http://www.saintstephens.org)



Saint Stephen's Episcopal School is a private, independent, co-educational, college preparatory school in Bradenton, Fla. Saint Stephen's delivers world-class education, excellent extracurricular experiences and exciting programs like AP course work, the iPad initiative, a band/strings program, a global education program, K-12 daily foreign language program and our Marine Science Initiative. Saint Stephen's sits on a gated, 35-acre campus, which includes a state-of-the-art athletic complex that hosts school athletic events including soccer, football, track and field, lacrosse, baseball, softball, tennis and cheerleading. At every level, from PK3 through grade 12, students are nurtured in small classes, encouraged and supported in their academic pursuits. The students benefit from programs and educational models that have proven successful by Saint Stephen's students who are excelling today in colleges and universities around the world. Saint Stephen's is proud of its rich academic offerings that go hand-in-hand with a strong college counseling program, a wide variety of competitive sports teams, a creative fine arts program, and many community service learning opportunities. For more information about Saint Stephen's, please visit [www.saintstephens.org](http://www.saintstephens.org).



# SARASOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

TEACHERS DR. STEPHEN FISK AND MRS. DEBBIE WHITE



## IN A COMPETITIVE COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE AND JOB MARKET, HOW DO YOU ENSURE STUDENTS HAVE AN ADVANTAGE UPON GRADUATION?

At Sarasota Christian we prepare our students for college, career and life in ways that set us apart. From the very beginning we teach faith-based principles to help students build a Christ-centered foundation. Biblical teachings help students navigate the most influential years of their lives, and equip them to be leaders in their family, business, and local and global communities. Another advantage to a Sarasota Christian education is our college planning program. Beginning in middle school our guidance department meets with each student to discuss their aspirations and develop a plan for their future. Our 1-to-1 technology program helps with access to online assessment tools that provide meaningful insights relating to college and career readiness in English, math, reading, science, and writing. During their junior year, students take a College Prep Course to focus on college research, the application process, financial aid, and scholarships. In their senior year, students take our Capstone course with dynamic instructors Dr. Stephen Fisk and Mrs. Debbie White, marking the final milestone of their secondary school career. The class continues the college preparation process and conducts site visits to universities. However, Dr. Fisk and Mrs. White also prepare seniors for life beyond college acceptance. Students learn how to manage economic realities post-graduation, become more informed consumers, create an effective resume', and master well-written communications. They participate in mock job interviews with area business leaders, travel to Washington, DC to experience our federal government firsthand, and plan a day of community service for the entire high school at local non-profits. For their final project, each senior takes an in-depth look at their spiritual gifts, spiritual growth, and personal mission. As a private school we are grateful for the freedom to instill the Word of God while delivering exceptional academics.

### Sarasota Christian School

5415 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, FL 34232

Phone: 941.371.6481 • [www.sarasotachristian.org](http://www.sarasotachristian.org)

Sarasota Christian School educates students Pre-K through 12th grade, and is dedicated to providing a nurturing environment in which students can grow in mind, body and spirit. Our mission is to honor God by developing academic abilities and broadening educational experiences while deepening Christian faith through partnership with home, the church and the community. Committed Christian faculty teach academically challenging, Biblically-infused curriculum while giving individualized attention to each student in small sized classes. Our curriculum is mapped Pre-K through 12th grade ensuring concepts are connected between each grade level. Students also have course offerings in Bible, foreign language, technology, fine arts and physical education. Sarasota Christian offers an Accelerated College Education (ACE) program which provides higher-level academic opportunities including honors courses, advanced placement courses and on-site college dual enrollment courses. This popular program gives the opportunity for students to earn college credit hours while remaining in a Christian environment. Sarasota Christian is about more than just academic excellence; the school not only prepares students for college and careers, it teaches faith-based values and principles to help students build a Christ-centered foundation for life. We inspire students to learn about other cultures through community service, mission trips and our International School Partnership Program. Service is an integral part of a Sarasota Christian education; our high school students served over 7600 volunteer hours last year alone. Established in 1958 and located on a beautiful 25-acre campus, Sarasota Christian is fully accredited by four independent agencies.



# TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM SCHOOLS

DAN CEASER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS THROUGH INNOVATION AND INQUIRY.** Temple Beth Sholom Schools (TBSS) provide children of all faiths with a joyful, inquiry-driven learning environment that is carefully crafted to support the unique social and emotional wellbeing of every child. The school's inclusive, family centered atmosphere celebrates Jewish values and traditions within a global studies curriculum that promotes an appreciation and diverse understanding of cultures and religions around the world. The school's research based, 21st century learning philosophy emphasizes rigorous, real-world inquiry through innovative, project-based learning. At TBSS, teaching is hands-on and student-centered—students take greater responsibility for thinking critically through projects, presentations and exhibitions. The school's unique Learning Expedition program leads students beyond the walls of the classroom as community stewards; cooperatively researching real-world problems while teachers provide guidance, expertise and assistance. As a Google Chromebook school that now features programming, graphic design and 3D fabrication, TBSS students are uniquely prepared to lead as our next generation of scholars innovators and entrepreneurs. With a 40-year track record and a national reputation for excellence, the Reggio Emilia program in the Early Childhood Center develops our youngest students' social and fine motor skills in a joyful academic environment that features play, stories, songs and projects. Our highly trained faculty dedicates the learning experience to the natural wonder and curiosity of young minds and encourages questioning, empathy and cooperation in a nurturing, developmentally appropriate environment. With small classes, personalized learning and a rigorous, project based curriculum, Temple Beth Sholom Schools offers students an experience unlike any other. As a community school, TBSS is committed to diversity, serving students of all faiths, races and ethnicity. With tuition assistance available for families at every income level, come see for yourself this hidden gem in the heart of downtown Sarasota.

## Temple Beth Sholom Schools

1050 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237

Justin Lee Wiesner Preschool • Phone: 941-954-2027

Goldie Feldman Academy • Phone: 941-552-2770

[www.tbsschools.org](http://www.tbsschools.org)



The mission of the Temple Beth Sholom Schools (TBSS) is to prepare students of all faiths to impact the world through academic excellence, global citizenship and compassionate action. A small, independent day school for students in Early Childhood through Grade 8, TBSS offers a rigorous, project based academic program in a diverse and vibrant learning environment rooted in the Jewish values of honesty, integrity, mutual trust and respect. Since 1974, Temple Beth Sholom School's highly personalized, academically accelerated program has prepared graduates to succeed in the region's most competitive college-preparatory high schools and colleges.