

# **Exploring the Transcendent In Math**

**Thinking about Montessori in God's terms**

**Transcendent = above and beyond normal/physical  
human experience**

**The challenge of living in a physical world**

**A philosophical question. Are we physical beings who  
have a spiritual experience or are we spiritual beings  
who live in a physical dimension?**

**To decide which, becomes the challenge of how we  
operate our Montessori classrooms.**

**When we treat our vocation of Montessori teaching as  
somehow not spiritual but natural we miss much of the  
mystery of discovery that God has hidden in plain sight.**

**Let's explore the subject that might seem the furthest  
from "spirituality" – Math. Ugg say some who still  
remember the frustration and boredom of 2 times 2, 2**

times 3 etc. How can that be spiritual (let alone Godly?) Yet, it is the preciseness of the math that speaks to the creator God who created our ability to fathom numbers and their relationship to each other – and to our lives. Both the telescope and the microscope function at extreme ends of the numerical spectrum. How do you explore the vastness of outer space or the miniscule space in a molecule, atom, or microbe without math? And before some exasperated student says who cares, let's remember that they may have missed the lesson on mystery and wonder about our creator God because we were too busy multiplying 7 times 3 and 8 times 4. Somebody failed to give us the wonder lesson that leads to the mystery lesson about the God of the universe who counts the hairs on our head and knows our name.

This is why The CMF conference theme this year is “Exploring the Transcendent – thinking about Montessori in God’s terms.”