

Hello Minnesota School OTs!

We are a group of metro occupational therapists that are looking to create more connection and benefit for school-based therapists through our state association! We need to hear more about what you want and need from MOTA and how we can connect and create a supportive environment for school based therapists in Minnesota! Here is a survey to fill out to help us create the group you are looking for [MOTA School SIG survey](#)

We are hoping to have our first meeting on **October 12th at 7:00 pm** via Zoom. Link and invite to follow.

Below is a little more information on our team. We are excited to meet you all!



Michelle Mercado received her Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine and an Occupational Therapy Doctorate from St. Catherine University. She has worked in hospitals, private practice, schools, and in early intervention with high risk infants and toddlers and preschoolers with developmental delays. Michelle is currently the lead for OT, PT, DAPE/PI Teachers and Music/Art Therapy for St. Paul Public Schools. She also works on-call at Family Achievement Center in Woodbury and University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital.



Stephanie Mahal received her Master's in Occupational Therapy at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She completed her fieldwork at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and began work for the University of Minnesota Medical Center - Fairview Health Services in both adult and pediatric inpatient services as well as casual staff at Northfield Hospital. She has spent the last 12 years working in the Northfield Public schools specializing in supporting students who have physical, neurological, sensory, mental, and emotional conditions that impact their ability to access their education and community. Stephanie has been co-chair to the Minnesota Low Incidence Project School-Based OT & PT Community of Practice as well as presented at Charting of the C's, the OT/PT School-Based Institute, and MESPA Conferences on topics related to motor room use and programming in schools.



Hayley DeMers completed her Master's Degree and Doctorate in Occupational Therapy at St. Catherine University, with a focus on handwriting and fine motor development. Hayley has been an active participant in the Region 11 OT Community of Practice for Metro ECSU. Hayley works for West St Paul Schools as the secondary occupational therapist, and specializes in behavioral and mental health focused interventions for middle school and high school students. Hayley is passionate about transforming occupational therapy practice into the future and embracing our role in use of technology, functional participation and mental health in the school setting.



Drea Hanson attended St. Catherine University, receiving her Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy. Drea has worked in transitional care units across the Twin Cities, Bethesda Hospital, home care and now in an intermediate district in the northwest metro that specializes in students with unique needs. Drea is very excited to work towards bridging the gap between MOTA and School OTs; hopefully creating a nice collaboration between the two.