



MONTESSORI CASA INTERNATIONAL
PRESCHOOL

Inspiring a passion for learning

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VOLUME 92

Directly from

Punum's Desk...

Planning for next year, staying committed to the MCI Mission

One of the things I most appreciate about MCI is the freedom we are afforded as a small private school to make educational decisions that are in the best interests of the children. We can be agile in difficult times whilst always following the Montessori Philosophy and Methodology.

To be sure, there are some guidelines that we must follow that come from outside authorities. On the whole, though, we have far more freedom to enact change and be, not just responsive, but proactive. That is one reason why the faculty and administration were able to move to remote learning so effectively and quickly, as we anticipated the arrival of COVID-19. We were able to continue our efforts opening the physical campus in May and June and continuing to offer virtual learning in an effort to support all our students and maintain connections with our community.

So many unknowns

Right now, we look ahead to the next school year and plan as best as we can. In our war against COVID-19, there are things we know, and there are still things we don't. So, under these circumstances, how do we plan in the face of changing and uncertain conditions?

Like other educational institutions, MCI will be guided by state and local health and governmental authorities. Most important, we are committed to your child's safety and

learning. We are dedicated to sustaining our school and preserving our culture

While we hope that life will go back to normal soon, I do not believe any of us can count on that. MCI is preparing different plans to approach this uncertain future.

A variety of scenarios

We need to be prepared for a variety of scenarios. This includes having multiple approaches, in case there are shifting closures and government guidelines that direct how we operate. We already know that we can do remote learning well, and our goal is to fine-tune our program, so that we can respond even better, should there be additional closures next school year. Anytime we need to go into remote learning, we will be prepared.

If we have to limit class sizes and enforcing social distancing in the physical campus of the school, we will use the teacher training room as an additional classroom (as we did in May). The Toddler classroom should stay unaffected.

Right now, we are planning for a physical campus re opening on August 12, 13 and 14 for new students and everyone on August 17th.

Staying safe

I share this not to unveil some master plan but want to convey to our community how thoroughly and methodically we are thinking this through and preparing to keep our children safe.

We have already had practice for two months (in May and June) with the new drop off procedure, taking temperatures, washing hands multiple times, deep cleaning, wearing masks and practicing social distancing. So far these have gone better than we could have expected.

Please read the attached guidelines which explain MCI's responsibilities and yours during the pandemic. If we all do our part, we will be able to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children.

Forms and Supplies

You should receive another email with the forms we need from you and the teachers will be sending you the supply list.

Looking forward to better times

The good news is that this crisis will end, and we will be stronger by the end of it. We will develop a vaccine and cure and the day will come when we will be able to meet as a school community again. I look forward to that but nonetheless, I want us to be prepared for the next school year. Children need to learn. We need to ensure that their social and emotional needs are met. We are all adaptable, and we will make this work. We will do all we can at MCI to serve your child in the months and years ahead. That is our promise to you.