



DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN

Windsor Montessori School Mission Statement

We will ensure exemplary education, care and high-quality growth experiences within the continuum of developmentally appropriate practice with sensitivity to families of diverse races, cultures, and languages.

We will seek out the involvement of the families we serve and strive to partner with parents in an effort to better meet the individual needs of their child and family.

We will anticipate and be responsive to the changing needs of our children, families, and community by creating and offering innovative, affordable programs and services.

We will create a work environment and climate where employees are supported with the tools, training, and resources needed to provide high-quality experiences to our children and families, and will be afforded opportunities for personal and professional growth.

We will be, in all of the above, responsive and accountable to our children, families, and community, for whose benefit we exist.

Windsor Montessori School's philosophy of distance learning?

Windsor Montessori School's goal for distance learning is to provide an authentic Montessori, individualized, and age appropriate educational experience in the event of a prolonged school closure.

Our school may close for a number of reasons including severe weather conditions; emergency closings (power outage) of instance of non-weather related issues; or state or local government recommendations.

The goal of this plan is to continue with Montessori instruction, but not necessarily depict a traditional school day as per our daily schedule. It is important to us that children's work during remote learning be enjoyable, thoughtful, challenging and rewarding. We are committed to working in collaboration with families to keep the Montessori learning aligned with each child's developmental level. The most important piece of this plan is effective communication with the teachers and parents.

Toddler Montessori Curriculum

The toddler will focus on authentic interactions and activities for the home, rather than screen time. The main focus of a Montessori Toddler experience is to foster their independence while they care for themselves and others.

- The toddler program will begin each day with a “group meeting” via an online platform. In addition, the teaching staff will provide a variety of weekly videos which include songs/stories/activities and physical development lessons.
- Teachers will show/demonstrate lessons using materials that can be found in the child’s home or outdoor environment. These videos may be directly from the teacher or a link will be provided to an online resource. In the event the teacher is using authentic Montessori materials parents may request to borrow the materials once the materials fee is paid. (See Materials Fee) families will make an appointment with the teacher to pick up the materials at school.
- Teachers will set up work packets to borrow or view in the following areas-Practical Life/Sensorial/Science/Nature and Art. Parent instructions will be included in each work packet. Packets will be made available for pick up at the school.

Primary Montessori Curriculum

Our focus is to continue learning based on each child’s academic level. Teachers will provide lessons to all second and third year students in addition to creating work packets. Students will demonstrate mastery before a new lesson will be provided. Parents will submit a video of the child completing a lesson based on Montessori Principles without adult interactions. Teachers will outline the mastery requirements with each new lesson.

For all 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students

- Teachers will conduct a minimum of two weekly meetings. The teacher will engage with the students through song; story; classroom discussion; and the presentation of large group lessons to engage the entire class. When possible lessons will include materials found in the home or outdoor environment.
- Throughout the morning work cycle teachers will present individual lessons, observe students working, and answer questions students or parents may have.
- Teachers will work with each individual family to set up one-on-one time if needed.

2nd Year Students

- Students will be provided work packets based on developmental level teacher input and parent request.
- Teachers will be available to conference with children and families on an as needed basis.
- Parents will make arrangements with teachers to pick-up and drop-off packets.

3rd Year Students

- Students will be provided weekly packets to be picked-up and returned to the school.
- Teachers will work one-on-one with third year students using an online platform at least twice a week.
- Montessori materials may be requested by the parent. Once a material fee is paid parents will be lent classroom materials. (See Materials Fee) Parents will make an appointment with the teacher to pick-up and return materials.
- Students will be provided weekly art lessons. These lessons may be offered, in a socially distance group or individually, on the school grounds, by the art teacher. Art materials will be provided when necessary.

Learning Expectations

- Work will be available based on students' academic level.
- Parents /Guardians will be able to view lessons on our Google Drive. Lessons will be available in the following areas

Language

- How to conduct a picture walk and make predictions
- Book list will be available
- All families are encouraged to read to their child daily.

Physical Activities

- Scavenger Hunts
- Nature Walks
- Outdoor exploration

Mindfulness activities for kids

Cooking activities and recipes

Math

- Sorting
- Patterning

Practical Life

- Cucumber Peeling
- Scissor Skills
- Washing

Science

- Life Cycles
- Experiments
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Geography

What is Expected of Parents?

At Windsor Montessori School we recognize that the prolonged closure of our school is not ideal, however the safety of all stakeholders is our main priority. All parents will be offered distance learning opportunities as outlined in this plan. Parents who choose to participate in distance learning will be required to pay half their monthly tuition payment. Financial requirements are outlined in the Parent Agreement. We know there will be feelings of apprehension and uncertainty, which is expected. We want families to listen to their student, if the online meetings are difficult or too long allow your student to adjust their stay accordingly. The most important thing you can do is communicate with your child's teacher.

Materials Fee

When your students work requires the use of Montessori materials parents will pay a materials fee. The fee for Montessori toddler materials is \$100.00 and primary materials is \$200.00. If the borrowed material is returned without all the pieces a replacement will be purchased with the material fee. If families return the materials in good condition with all the pieces the fee will be applied as a credit on your account. Materials fees will not be returned as a refund.

Windsor Montessori reserves the right to modify the Distance Learning Plan when necessary.

Possible online learning websites PS – PK

<https://jr.brainpop.com/>
(Free membership is schools are forced to close)
<https://www.freechildrenstories.com/>
<https://www.ABCya!.com>
<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
<https://www.takeyourmarks.co.uk>

● **PK – Grade 2**

<https://www.getepic.com/educators>
<https://www.storylineonline.net/>
<https://storytimefromspace.com/>
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>
<https://www.worldbookday.com/storytime-online/>
<http://www.loyalbooks.com/genre/Children>
<https://nearpod.com/>
<https://www.youtube.com/>
<https://www.easypolls.net/>
<https://livingmontessorinow.com/free-montessori-video-lessons-online/>
<https://scholasticnews.scholastic.com/>

References:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/CTReopeningSchools.pdf>
<https://amshq.org/COVID19>
<https://www.ctoec.org/supporting-children-and-families-during-covid-19/>