



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Notes from Ms. Tammie

Dear HDMS Community,

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the current health situation. Governor Sisolak has ordered all Nevada K-12 schools closed. High Desert Montessori is working with the Nevada Department of Education in providing instructional time to students during this unprecedented time.

Following is a timeline of dates surrounding the school closures:

- Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31: Teachers will receive professional development training
- Wednesday, April 1: Distance Learning will begin.
- Thursday, April 16: School buildings are scheduled to reopen as per Governor Sisolak's directive. However, as you know this is a fluid situation. We have to obtain the final authority from statewide medical officials before schools open across Nevada. We will be sure to communicate any changes to you as soon as we know.

Teachers will be moving to an online model for classes. For students who cannot access online tools, we are working to create paper copies of online assignments. Please contact your teacher if you have not heard from them by April 1st. *It is important that your child participates in the assigned online or at-home activities, because their attendance will be calculated based on the completion of this work.*

General Q&A:

Will this affect our summer break?

No, by providing distance learning, we continue to meet the requirements of instructional time.

Do we have to hold "school hours" every day?

Each teacher will be setting their own age and grade level expectation of work completion. Their participation in the assigned online or at-home activities will calculate their attendance.

Will assignments have to be completed at specific times on specific days or is there flexibility in completing work?

Teachers may choose to hold live lessons online, but we understand that every child may not be available at a specific time of day with perfectly working internet access. Teachers will remain flexible. There will be due dates for work. This is how attendance will be accounted for.

When and how can I reach my child's teacher?

Email remains the best way to contact a teacher. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please use email to set up a time for a phone call. Be aware that teachers calling from their personal cell phones have been asked to block their number for privacy.

When can I expect a response?

In most cases, you can expect a response to emails within 24 hours, excluding weekends and planned school breaks.

How much communication can I expect from the school?

The administration office will communicate with you directly should there be any updates on the COVID-19 situation that might have a direct impact on school operations. The frequency of communication from your child's teacher will vary depending on each program.

Can teachers tutor students individually online?

This will vary greatly depending on the age of the students. Teachers will share information with families via email and adolescents will use Google applications to submit work assignments. Staff may utilize online video conferencing in certain circumstances. Your classroom teachers will share more information with you in due course.

How will the school keep me informed on the closure?

All closure updates and plans to reopen will be communicated via text, phone call or email.

Will the Primary Extended Day Program reopen before the K-8 Programs?

All of our programs are currently closed. We feel it prudent to show solidarity and practice social distancing in order to prevent the rapid spread of the virus. We hold the safety of our families and staff above all else. We will notify all Primary Extended Day Families should we deem it wise to reopen this program at an earlier date than our K-8 program.

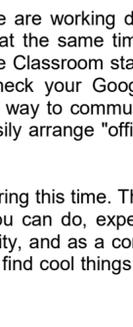
In closing, please remain patient with us as we navigate this first week of distance learning. Please continue to reach out to our incredibly dedicated teachers if you have any questions regarding your child's learning. These are unprecedented times and what we are expected to do is changing daily. Please remain diligent in keeping yourself and your family safe. I appreciate all of you and we will get through this together.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the High Desert Community!

Sincerely,
Ms. Tammie, Interim Principal
principal@hdmsreno.com

Upcoming Events (pending the reopening of schools on April 16th)

- 3/30/20-3/31/20: Teacher Professional Development
- 4/1/20-4/15/20: Distance Learning
- 4/17/20: Teacher Work Day—No School for All Programs
- 4/29/20: 5:00 HDMS Board Meeting
- 5/8/20: 1:00 Early Release
- 5/14/20: 3:45 PTO Meeting
- 5/22/20: 1:00 Early Release
- 5/25/20: Memorial Day—No School for All Programs
- 5/27/20: 5:00 HDMS Board Meeting
- 6/5/20: Last Day of School—1:00 Early Release



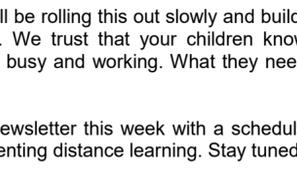
Notes from the Office Staff

The HDMS Finance Committee will be meeting next week to discuss possible tuition scenarios for the remainder of the school year. We will keep all tuition based families informed.

Notes from the Special Education Team

For Special Education services in the Silverada building, students will have assignments in Freckle and/or Khan Academy, depending on their level. Ms. Chrislyn will check in with each child at least once a week via email or Google Hangouts/Zoom call, depending on parents' preference. Office hours will also be available for additional support and small group instruction. IEPs WILL STILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED UNLESS YOU ARE CONTACTED TO ADJUST THEM. Please watch for emails with more details specific to your child.

A Note from the Adolescent Team



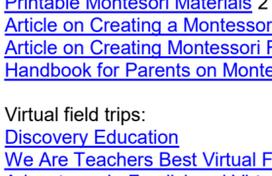
Dear Adolescent Community,

We hope you are doing well and staying safe and healthy. We are working diligently to put together lessons that are engaging and fun, but at the same time, challenging. All three of us will be assigning work via our Google Classroom starting Wednesday. It is really important that you log in and check your Google classes on a daily basis starting as soon as possible. The best way to communicate with us is via email if you have any questions. We can easily arrange "office hours" for one on one help if need be.

We will also be posting activities and cool things to check out during this time. This will include online social discussions, physical activities that you can do, experiments that can easily be done at home, etc. We are a community, and as a community, we will offer everything we can and hope that when you find cool things to share, you will share them with us as well.

Thanks and hopefully, we will see you all soon.

Eric (eric@hdmsreno.com)
Kelly (kelly@hdmsreno.com)
Nia (nia@hdmsreno.com)
Chrislyn (chrislyn@hdmsreno.com)



A Note from the Elementary Team

Dear HDMS Families,

We hope you are safe and well during this tough time, and we are thinking of you. We have been working as a team to implement a plan for distance learning. Recognizing how difficult it can be to recreate school at home and ensure the same kind of learning, our priorities will be the following:

- Keeping everyone healthy and safe
- Connecting with students and connecting them with each other
- Establishing routines that are conducive to focus and calm
- Providing lessons

We will be using the free Zoom platform to connect with students and provide them with lessons. If possible, we encourage you to download it on your phone, tablet, or computer and start playing around with it. There will be phone conferences to those students that do not have access to a computer. We will be providing supplies that are picked up at school if necessary.

Next week will be a bit of a practice run: we will be rolling this out slowly and building up to a routine that works for everyone. We trust that your children know enough about Montessori to keep themselves busy and working. What they need now is a routine.

Each classroom will be sending out its own newsletter this week with a schedule and more details about how we will be implementing distance learning. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,
The Elementary Teachers

A Note from the Primary Team



We hope you are all well. Please know that we are working on lesson plans and ways to connect during this difficult time. We will be sending out a letter on Friday that will address our plans, give lots of ideas on what to work on with your child, and a sign-up sheet that you can add your child's name to so we can contact them. If you do not have internet access, or a computer or a tablet, or a printer please let your child's teacher know.

These are difficult times and we want you all to know that we are here for you.

Notes from the PTO

Due to current social distancing practices, the Parent's Play Date has been cancelled. Stay well everyone!

Resources for Parents

Our teachers have compiled some great resources for parents during this time of schooling at home. Check them out!

- Printable Montessori Materials:
 - [Printable Montessori Materials 1](#)
 - [Printable Montessori Materials 2](#)
 - [Article on Creating a Montessori Friendly Environment at Home](#)
 - [Article on Creating Montessori Routines at Home and Creating Hope](#)
 - [Handbook for Parents on Montessori Learning from Home](#)

- Virtual field trips:
 - [Discovery Education](#)
 - [We Are Teachers Best Virtual Field Trips](#)
 - [Adventures In Familyhood Virtual Field Trips](#)

- Science labs and experiments
 - [Virtual Lab](#)
 - [Interactive Simulations](#)
 - [Educational Activities Using Household Stuff](#)
 - [Engineering Challenge](#)

- Math fun
 - [Math Playground](#)
 - [Math Games at Education.com](#)

- Language Arts
 - [Story Builder](#)
 - [Language Arts Games at Education.com](#)

Input Wanted!



We have opened the application process for a new principal for next school year and would appreciate your feedback by taking part in this short four question [survey](#). The HDMS Board of Directors will have final approval when hiring a new principal, which should be announced in May. Ms. Tammie plans on staying on with HDMS during the 2020-2021 school year as Executive Director to mentor our next principal and ensure all goes smoothly with our facilities expansion.

Order a Yearbook Today!

HDMS 2019-2020 Yearbooks are on sale through April 6th! Order yours [online](#) today. Visit ybpay.lifetouch.com and enter school code 14169020 to order!