



### MONTESSORI SCHOOL CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN

Dear Montessori School Families,

We are looking forward to seeing all of our students back on Monday, January 17, 2022. As you know, our toddler and Casa classes have been running on campus since January 3. Our staff and students have done extremely well since their return and have relished the opportunity to return to a normal routine.

We continue to work with our College support staff to make our classes inviting learning spaces and environments that support student health and wellbeing. Our staff have N95 masks, our strict cleaning routines are continuing and we are assisting our students in adhering to mask protocols. Our building has a built-in air filtration system with the highest grade filter, and in the CCEYA classes where not all children wear masks. This has been in place since our return in September 2020.

While we hope to see as many students as possible, we understand that special circumstances may prevent that, and we will work in concert with our parents to address student needs.

#### Updated Screening

The Ontario **COVID-19 Screening Tool for Schools** has now been updated. Please start screening your children now, so you are familiar with this screening tool. You can also use the HSC Student Screening tool, which has been adapted with the latest guidelines, by visiting [www.hsc.on.ca/studentsscreening](http://www.hsc.on.ca/studentsscreening). Parents/guardians must complete student screening each morning prior to departure for school. A member of the Montessori School faculty will verify that this has been completed before entering the building or alternatively before boarding the bus. Ms. Ruel will contact parents/guardians to verify student screening when it has not been completed at home. Please assist us by ensuring that this is completed before departure for school each day.

#### Arrival and Departure

Arrival and departure times and procedures will remain the same. Students riding the bus will participate in a health screening on the bus, and those arriving on campus will be met by staff with screening questions just as we did in the past term. We will continue to have parents/guardians transfer care of their children to staff outside of the building as an extra precaution for the health of our community.

#### Academic Program

Our class programming will remain consistent for our students as we are cognizant of the importance of routine and familiarity, especially for our younger students. We will be adding some additional cohorting to protect our students further. The cohort for indoor instruction will be

restricted to class cohorts of 15 or 16. This grouping will include all activities, including lunch and rotary subjects. However, the children will be able to mix with the cohort groups we had in place pre-holiday break for outdoor recess. These would include an M8/9 group, an M6/7 group, M5 group and Casa groupings. The children will be encouraged to mask outdoors as they engage socially in a larger cohort. The toddlers, who are all unmasked, will remain indoors and outdoors in their smaller cohort.

The M5 class will resume their regular rotation to maintain the much-needed routine for the students. The 5s group tends to be a small group of 10 to 12 students at a time.

## **HSC@home**

HSC@home remains available to all students. Parents/guardians opting for online learning must register with 24 hours' notice and remain in that mode for a minimum of two weeks. Students participating in HSC@home as a result of public health directives such as COVID-19 diagnosis or needing to isolate will be directed by Health Services as to when they can return to school.

To sign up for HSC@home, please click the link below:

<http://www.hsc.on.ca/monteathome>

## **Lunch**

Lunch will continue to be served in the classes. Toddlers and Casa will have pre-plated food delivered to them, and the Elementary students will access our Montessori server by class cohort as they have done all year. All students will be socially distanced while eating.

## **Recess**

Masks will be encouraged at all recesses for those students who are mandated to wear masks (age four and up) and for those younger students who opt for mask wear by family choice.

## **After School Activities**

Our after-school activities scheduled to commence on January 18 have been put on hold until we are able to reassess the current situation. As soon as we have a clearer picture of the requirements, we will reinstate and inform parents/guardians at that time.

Skating for the M5s and M6s is postponed until further notice.

## **Late duty**

In order to reduce contact and allow for classroom cleaning, we ask parents to opt for late duty (3:30 to 5:00 p.m.) on an essential need basis only. We thank you for your understanding in this situation, as it allows our committed staff to better prepare our classes for all the students who return each morning.

While we are pleased to welcome all staff and students back to Montessori on Monday, we are also cognizant of the challenges that lay ahead in the next few weeks—as always, meeting each

child's emotional, social, health and academic needs is our priority. We appreciate your support and encourage you to communicate any concerns or questions you may have either to your child's teacher or to myself.

Einstein said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." Let us seek opportunities together as a community!

Take care, stay well and stay safe.

**Danielle Hourigan,**  
Principal, Montessori School