



May 15, 2020

RE: COVID-19 School Closure Update

Good morning parents,

First off, on behalf of all my staff, I wanted to THANK YOU and our PTA for their generous home delivered gifts to our staff this past week! We sincerely appreciate it!

Current Status update:

As you know, we're about 2 months into our 'temporary' distance-based education plan, with a little less than a month to go. I want to acknowledge that this is new for all of us, and I sincerely wish we did not have to do this. I also recognize that we're putting all of our students into an almost completely new learning platform with minimal transition time, and their new 'classroom' at home probably includes their siblings, pets and parents who are all also stressed out from a situation that is not their fault and that none of us have any real control over.

It's also fair to say that I'm having all of our teachers be pretty aggressive with this 'temporary distance based learning' that we're trying to implement. I know most of our kids are not going to be where they would 'normally' be if they were able to be 'at school' through the Spring Trimester as originally planned - we are going to have to play 'catch up' next August. Frankly at this point, I can't even say definitively what next school year will look like - as of today, we're being told to prepare for a variety of scenarios, many of which include some form of 'distance based' learning.

I know that kids are getting tired of having to do school this way. I know their parents are arguably even more frustrated than their kids, given the stress of making their home both a 'school' and their 'workplace' during this lockdown. We've got three weeks left for this school year. Thus far, we've had 100% student participation in this 'temporary' distance learning program, with well over 90% of our students regularly attending their video conferenced lessons and getting their work done. By comparison, I have a friend who works for a school in the nearby Twin Rivers School District, and they have less than 10% of their students participating in distance based education. I am very proud of the perseverance and effort of our entire school community - from our teachers to our students and their parents - great job everyone! We will get through this - hang in there!

With that, a couple brief programmatic updates:

Summer Camp

With Placer County moving into 'enhanced Phase 2' of reopening this week, it does make things like our Summer Camp program possible again. BUT, and this is a big 'but', in Phase 2 child care programs are limited to groups of 10 students. I have been told we are still 'months' away from Phase 3. At 10 students, both our Summer Camp Director Julie Cohodes and I do not believe Summer Camp is viable in our school setting. If 'Phase 3' happens before August 1st, we'll re-assess, but for now, I encourage families who were planning on sending their kids to MMCA's Summer Camp program to look at other alternatives.

Preschool

With a 10 student limitation, we are not going to reopen Children's House for the rest of this school year. We sent refunds for the March 2020 school days that we were closed, and like April and May, will not be billing any more tuition for this school year. We are actively enrolling for Preschool for next school year (2020-2021), with registration information and paperwork available on our website or in our Front Office.*

***Front Office Hours**

Our School Office continues to be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30a - 3:30p for any school related concerns.

Hot Lunch

We're continuing to serve FREE hot lunches for ALL of our students AND their siblings ages 18 and younger. Just make sure your orders are in by Monday @ 11:59p for the following week.

Thank you all,

Brent Boothby, Executive Director
Maria Montessori Charter Academy