

2020-2021



Beyond the Classroom: Montessori at Home

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Montessori Regional Charter School

SUPERINTENDENT

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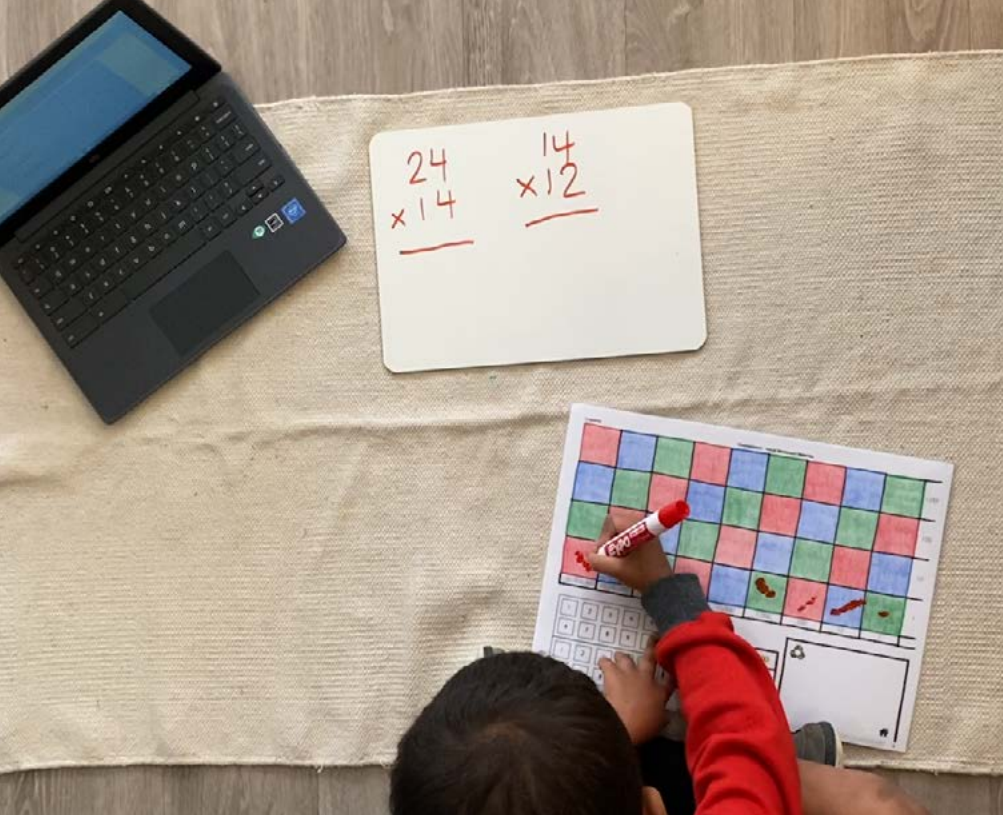


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As we begin the new school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, things are going to look different!

**MRCs is bringing
the Montessori
classroom directly
to your home!**

Montessori Philosophy

KEY COMPONENTS FOR ALL LEARNERS

- Student directed activities
- Hands-on materials
- The use of personal Montessori learning tools
- The use of virtual Montessori materials
- Building Independence
- Love of Learning
- Exploration
- Practical life components
- Ability to present lessons to small groups
- More Choice
- Less Screen Time
- Cosmic Education and Social Justice Teaching
- Multiple Adults – Teacher and Teaching Assistant
- Multi-age classrooms

Learning Pathway

ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION

in person, face to face at the physical campus. See Health and Safety Plan for protocols.

REMOTE INSTRUCTION

online, off-campus, virtual instruction. utilizing school-issued Chromebooks

Making the Decision for Remote Learning

Over the past several months, MRCS has been preparing for the new school year at a time when each day brings new information about the virus, its transmission, how it affects different age groups and how to mitigate spreading the disease. **Our number one priority is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, teachers, other school staff, their families, and our communities.** While we all want our students to return as soon as possible, we want to make sure that returning is safe for everyone.

In deciding how to open school this year, we have consulted with and followed the guidance and directives of:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
- State Department of Health (DOH)
- State of Pennsylvania Governor's office
- Erie County Department of Health (DOH)
- County and Municipal Health Department (CMHD)
- Our chartering districts – Erie School District and Millcreek School District

Making the Decision for Remote Learning

Most importantly, we monitor the [Department of Health Covid-19 Data for Pennsylvania](#) daily to determine the spread of the virus in our own community. As you have probably seen in the news, the cases in Erie County have continued to rise over the past several weeks. As we write this, the incident rate stands at 5.9% which indicates community spread. While it is difficult to predict what will happen in the next few weeks, we have watched as other states and communities have opened schools under similar conditions, only to shut them down as students and staff infection rates rise.

Therefore, MRCS has decided that the best decision for our students, staff, families and community is to follow Erie School District's lead and open the school on

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
WITH TOTAL REMOTE LEARNING.**

The Reopening Plan

In this reopening plan, you will find information about the new school year and how it will differ from the online schooling that MRCS offered this past spring.

- Remote instruction will follow the school day schedule.
- Classes will be livestreamed, allowing students to participate in lessons and interact with their peers and teachers in real time.
- Lessons will also be available in an MRCS online video library so families can access the lessons outside the traditional school day.
- We will also make sure that you have all of the tools, materials and supplies you need at your own home with new dedicated Chromebooks for each student, a supply box and Montessori materials.
- And, you will have the support, both technical and academic, to assist your student in your at-home Montessori classroom.

What to Expect During Remote Instruction

Students will be engaged in daily online classes with their classroom teacher. Teachers will present live lessons and instruction throughout the school day, while some lessons presented may be pre-recorded by the teacher. Students will have the opportunity to interact with their peers by asking questions and regularly participating in community meetings.

What to Expect

- Students will follow a regular school day schedule to ensure that they meet Pennsylvania's requirements for 180 days of instruction
- Live and recorded Montessori lessons presented to students
- Lesson materials and follow up work will be provided to all students
- Lessons that are aligned with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards will be delivered – teachers will follow our scope and sequence
- Students will be provided with a MRCS issued Chromebook and Supplies/Materials
- Supplemental materials, assignments, and class announcements will be available through Google Classroom
- Ability to pick up copies of materials and drop off completed assignments

What to Expect

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:



Attend class lessons
and meetings



View video lessons
and resources outside
of regular class hours



Communicate regularly
with the classroom
teacher



Actively participate
in lessons



Participate in teacher
led classroom
discussions



Submit assigned
follow up work

What to Expect

FAMILIES WILL BE ABLE TO:



Participate in opportunities that allows for flexible classroom scheduling



Set up video conference with teachers during regularly scheduled office hours



Access technical support



Access video lessons for students outside of regular class hours

How This is Different

FOR FALL 2020, MRCS WILL:



Provide dedicated, school issued Chromebooks and headphones for every student



Google Classroom has been updated and we have added features to assist teachers in assisting and supporting your student



Provide technology training to families both in person and through a video library prior to the start of the school year.



Provide technology support to assist you with technical problems related to your equipment

How This is Different

FOR FALL 2020, MRCS WILL:



Strengthen the teacher-student relationship through live daily instruction that requires less home adult assistance



Provide opportunities to support families work schedules by utilizing video lessons that can be accessed outside of the school day



Providing Montessori material kits in hands-on packets, as well as introducing innovative on-line Montessori materials that can manipulated on your computer screen

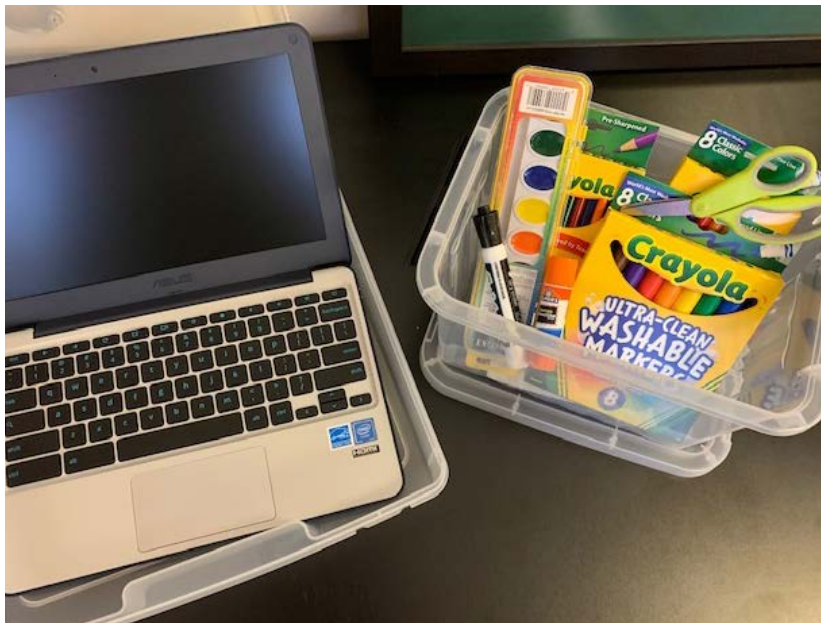


Conducting on line family/teacher conferences through the chromebooks and opening up teacher office hours so families can communicate their concerns and issues directly with their child's teacher

How This is Different

FOR FALL 2020, MRCS WILL:

Provide at home supply packets to ensure that every student has the materials they need to do their daily lessons (pencils, paper, white boards, markers, crayons, ruler, scissors etc)



Attendance

We want to make sure that every student has some online face to face communication with their teacher on a regular basis. **This means many students will be online with their class every day beginning at 8:30 am.** Teachers will take “attendance” through visually seeing the student on screen each day.

In addition, attendance will be noted by the submission of required assignments based on the lessons of the week. Since some students will not be “on screen” all day (based on a families’ work schedule) the submission of required work will be critical in determining if student’s are participating daily/weekly and most importantly, assessing their understanding of the curriculum.

Families of students who are unable to attend (be online) for all or most of the day, every day, will be asked to complete a support form and a customized schedule will be developed.

Breakfast and Lunch Distribution

There will be breakfast and lunch distributions on

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

4PM – 6PM

Sample Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work
8:30-9:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log onto Computer Morning Eye Opener (MEO) math review page + Social Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log onto Computer Morning Eye Opener (MEO) math review page + Introduce Cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log onto Computer Morning Eye Opener (MEO) math review page - Cultures Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log onto Computer Morning Eye Opener (MEO) math review page - Cultures Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log onto Computer Morning Eye Opener (MEO) math review page + - Cultures Project/sharing
ELA Block	ELA Block	ELA Block	ELA Block	ELA Block	ELA Block
9:00-11:30 	ELA Lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce Spelling Wordly Wise Novel Study/ Author Study Reading Groups Handwriting Work Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling Activity Wordly Wise Activity Reading Groups TA- Handwriting Work Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling Activity Wordly Wise Activity Reading Groups TA- Handwriting Work Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling Activity Wordly Wise Activity Reading Groups TA- Handwriting Work Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Check in with Students Spelling Quiz Wordly Wise Activity Novel Study/ Author Study TA- Handwriting
11:30-12:30 Lunch/Recess 	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:30 - 1:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Aloud
Math Block	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block	Math Block
1:00-2:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Directed Lesson Student Work Time Math Facts Review Khan Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Directed Lesson Student Work Time TA- Math Facts Review Khan Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Directed Lesson Student Work Time TA- Math Facts Review Khan Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Directed Lesson Student Work Time TA- Math Facts Review Khan Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Check in with Students TA- TFK Khan Academy
Specials Block	Specials Block	Specials Block	Specials Block	Specials Block	Specials Block
2:00-2:45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specials- Art Portraits & Self Portraits (artists examples) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specials- Music Theme and Variations (American Salute) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specials- Gym 4-Square Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specials- Healthy Living 7 Habits of Happy Kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specials - Latin mythical characters and universal personality traits
Creative Learning	Creative Learning	Creative Learning	Creative Learning	Creative Learning	Reset Time
2:45-3:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to songs/ yoga Movement Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to songs/ yoga Movement Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to songs/ yoga Movement Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to songs/ yoga Movement Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Sharing

Important Dates to Know

- **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH**
ParentSquare sign up for in-person orientation sessions begin
- **SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST**
Family and student in-person orientation
- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND**
Virtual Meet the Teacher Night
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**
First Day of School remote instruction
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**
First Quarter - Total remote learning for all students
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND**
Assess Safe Return to School options based on current health and safety data
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD**
Inform families of Learning Pathway decisions for second quarter
- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**
First Quarter Ends

Back to School Orientation

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH –
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

We will be providing In-person one hour orientation sessions for parents and students at our campus. These sessions will be socially distanced with no more than 6 families in each classroom and everyone will be required to wear masks in all common areas (entering and leaving the building and in hallways).

Orientation Agenda

- You will receive your dedicated Chromebook, headphones, supply kit and materials kit.
- You and your child will receive training on how to access Google classroom each day.
- You will receive a copy of your child's password.
- You will be given information about your child's teacher, a list of your online classmates and the expectations of the classroom for the year.
- You will be given information on how to pick up breakfast and lunch packets each week.
- You will receive information on how to submit assignments – both online and drop off points

A PARENTSQUARE SIGNUP HAS BEEN POSTED TODAY. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR AN ORIENTATION TODAY AS TIME SLOTS ARE LIMITED!

Annual Schedule

2020-2021



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

	No School-LEA Shutdown
	No School- Teacher In-Service
	Family Conferences - No School
	Snow Make Up Day
	Early Dismissal Day - 1:00pm
	School Event - Check Calendar
	PTO Meeting - 5:30pm

AUGUST						
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29	30					

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JANUARY						
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31						

FEBRUARY						
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28						

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28	29	30	31			

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30	31					

JUNE						
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JULY						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Annual Schedule

2020-2021 SCHOOL EVENTS



2549 W. 8th St.
Erie, PA 16505

AUGUST
26-28: Teacher In-Service

SEPTEMBER
4: NO SCHOOL
7: Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
8: First Day of School

OCTOBER
12: Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER
6: Early Dismissal/Recording Day
24 - 25: Family Conferences - NO SCHOOL
26-27: Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER
24 - 31: Winter Holiday

JANUARY
1: Winter Holiday
18: MLK Day - NO SCHOOL
29: Early Dismissal/Recording Day

FEBRUARY
15: President's Day - NO SCHOOL

MARCH

APRIL
1: Early Dismissal/Recording Day
2 - 8: NO SCHOOL

MAY
7: Family Conferences - NO SCHOOL
31: Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

JUNE
15: Last Day of School
16: Recording Day - Teachers only

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Follow us on ParentSquare



and Instagram!
@montessoricharterschoolerie

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility as we adapt to the new conditions and work creatively to make this school year a success!

