

March 26, 2020

Dear Arborland Families,

A warm greeting to all the beautiful children and our wonderful parents! Seeing quite a few happy faces on my screen this week surely brightens me up! Thank you, little angels! It's painful to see an empty school without children. All of us are suffering. I am heartbroken thinking about our parents who must take care of children while working from home or at the job sites. I cannot tell you how much I wish to open our school to welcome those beautiful smiles and to help our parents.

It touches my heart dearly seeing our dedicated teachers who are working tirelessly during their Spring Break in preparation for the possibility of remote teaching and learning. They have been working together to pool resources, to brainstorm and to practice giving remote lessons to each other. I was very impressed upon how creative they are to give lessons with Montessori materials digitally.

As part of the trial period over Spring Break, we hope your child has had the opportunity to connect with our teachers remotely this week. If not, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. While we believe a Montessori classroom is the best learning environment, a digital Montessori classroom is the second best option when the first one is not viable.

Ultimately, it has been a big struggle and I appreciate your continued patience. My heart wants to hug every child and welcome them at the door, yet my mind reminds me of my responsibility to help with flattening the curve. Your family's health and safety is our number one priority. We cannot expose anyone to this invisible virus.

Thus, our plan is to carry out our regular classroom routine remotely with group meetings, small group lessons, individual lessons, and independent follow-up practice for the time being until we are able to physically open up the school again. We know your help is crucial, especially in the beginning as we all are learning a new routine. We feel confident that as with any routine, it will get better everyday. Your child will get used to the new routine and be able to function independently at home as he/she does in the classroom. As always, if you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning, please do communicate with our teachers. We are here to help and support our community.

Speaking of our community, we are hoping to maintain as many staff on payroll as possible. With your support, we will be able to continue to pay our staff and help them through this hard time as well. We understand some of you are excited about letting the children get back to their learning routines while some may not be interested in remote learning. We hope that you will at least give our teachers a chance to continuously educate your child so they can be kept on payroll.

PARENT RESPONSE REQUIRED: Per email sent on March 26, 2020, a parent response is required to the office by March 28, 2020 at 12 noon. If you did not receive this email, please call our office ASAP so we can email you.

Note: If your child is enrolled in **Optional Programs**, remote learning available for dance, piano, and art. **Please also include an “Opt In to Remote Learning” or “Opt to Pause” for dance, piano and art.** If your child is enrolled in lunch, childcare, gymnastics, chess, swim, tennis, or robotics, these programs will be on automatic “Opt to Pause” until school can physically reopen.

We will continue to monitor the virus situation and government regulations and will inform you at least 48 hours ahead of time before opening our physical facility. We thank you for your support especially in this challenging time. Please wash hands, keep social distance, and stay tuned.

With appreciation,
Dr. Sueling Chen
Principal