



ARBORLAND MONTESSORI INFANT - 8TH GRADE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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Dear Arborland Families,

The year 2020 has been a unique one for everyone! Toilet paper is a treasure, facemasks are lifesavers, and human beings' endurance is definitely being tested! With all the craziness, I want to thank Ms. Ho, Ms. Simms, Ms. Melissa, and Ms. Veronica for helping all our teachers to learn digital technology. Anything is possible! As you know, we were able to have our science fair, recital, and even graduation to spot light our students' achievements. In addition, **ARBORLAND IS STARTING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL**. We have been preparing our junior high school for the whole school year and are delighted that it's happening. Our core values of **safe environment, academic excellence, personalized learning, and sense of belonging** will instill **independence, knowledge, and compassion** in all our students in both good times and challenging times.

Life is full of ups and downs. I have had and still have many sleepless nights throughout this Covid pandemic worrying about how our parents can work while taking care of the children, how the teachers can continue effective instruction remotely and pay their bills, and most importantly, how the children can stay safe while continuously learning! Even the decision to keep the school open or shut down was overwhelmingly stressful. Experts could not answer my questions in a timely manner. Leaders in the field had different opinions. Tears and anxiety could not help with the situation.

We cannot control the uncertainty and all the variables in front of us. What we can control is providing the best education opportunity to the students in a safe environment. So, we did just that. After two months of 5-day full time distant teaching, we re-opened in May 2020 to offer hybrid learning and have been offering both in-person and distant learning for the children.

While all the schools are struggling to figure out what to do in the fall, we are grateful that we have had the 4 months of experience to create a solid plan for fall. Here is a summary of our Fall plan:

1. WE ARE OPEN and students are welcome to attend in-person or virtually every school day.
2. Each student, parent, and staff temperature will be taken upon arrival. Anyone who is sick **or** with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home. If your child is sick, stay home. Please email the office if your child will be absent and the reason for absence.
3. Everyone must wear a facemask to enter our campus except for children who are 2 or younger.

4. We have reduced our capacity and opened up unused rooms to allow for social distancing in the classrooms.
5. Every student will need personal stationery and learning tools as the students are not sharing personal objects. Please refer to your child's teacher's greeting letter for details.
6. For any shared Montessori materials, the students are taught to put used classroom materials to the "To be Cleaned" shelf. The teacher will disinfect the used materials and put them back on the shelf for the next student to use.
7. Proper hand washing is part of Montessori Practical Life lessons. Students will be reminded to wash their hands upon arrival at school, before snacks, before meals, after outdoor time, and after each restroom break. Hand sanitizer will be available in every room.
8. For everyone's safety, our campus is only open for students and employees. Parents and visitors, please remain in the front lobby area and ask our office to help you.
9. Only one adult is needed to drop off and pick up the student. Siblings and other family members not enrolled in our in-person learning need to stay at home or in the car to avoid crowds. During drop off/pick up time, we will open more entrance/exits to avoid crowds. Please be patient and allow some waiting time and maintain social distance with other families.
10. We will be staggering outdoor time so that the students will have more space and will only play with children in the same cohort.
11. For those Elementary students who prefer 5-day full time distant learning, we will save a seat in the class for you and will teach you remotely. The remote Elementary students will have the same lessons as the in-person students.
12. For those Primary students who prefer 5-day remote learning, we will be offering 30-minute small group lessons (max 3 students per lesson) and one 30-minute whole class remote lesson to allow our primary students to continue learning, while still addressing their needs for social interaction with peers, limited attention span, and parents' availability for technical support.

Thank you very much for your understanding of the challenge before us. These are, perhaps, the most difficult times we have faced in many decades. Arborland is committed to stay true to our mission while protecting our students, teachers, parents, and our community. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with your child in-person and online.

With appreciation,

Dr. Sueling Chen
Principal