

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully complete our survey. We appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Many parents said they wanted us to physically open as soon as possible while just as many others said they would not yet be comfortable with an in person start. Moving forward, we will follow the guidelines from: The World Health Organization, The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Bright From The Start and our local county and state health departments and officials.

We are very fortunate that our beautiful campuses offer ample opportunity to spread out, therefore our priority will be to remain open for in-person learning throughout the school year. Some things that make this possible are:

- Every classroom has its own access from the outside that does not require a teacher or student to walk through another space to get to their environment.
- Every classroom has large windows and beautiful hardwood floors that allow for fresh air and easy cleaning.
- Every classroom has its own bathrooms and sink areas.
- Every classroom has access to outside areas where students are able to work and play extending the classroom environment.
- If it is necessary to open more classrooms, we have administrators that are seasoned, AMI trained teachers available to lead additional classes.

These positive aspects of our physical spaces as well as the benefit of having a wonderful staff and supportive parents make it possible for us to move forward with confidence.

DMS will also offer a *Learning From Home* Option for a **limited** number of students at a discounted rate with priority given to those at high risk. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are interested.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

We will begin school with an orientation period August 12-19 where we will bring smaller groups in each day to orient them to new procedures and protocols. This will include:

- Orientation to the environment.
- Orientation to new routines
- New procedures for handling materials
- Grace & Courtesy lessons
 - Social Distancing
 - Observing Lessons
 - Changes to lunch and snack

We plan to officially start with all students by August 20th. We will continue to follow Gwinnett County as much as possible in our planning of school holidays and closures that are weather related.

OPERATIONS AND FLEXIBILITY:

While this situation remains fluid and we will adjust as needed, we do have a basic framework for how we plan to approach the 2020-21 school year. We are designing a multi-tiered action plan that will address the various scenarios that we may face throughout the school year.

<link to Tiered Plan>

We hope that required numbers will continue to increase, however our starting point for the fall will be 23 students with 2 adults. Here are the things that we will be doing across all levels for the start of school:

- Fully contained spaces for each class with one designated entrance and exit.
- Staggered arrival/departure times.
- Visual health and temperature checks and the sick policy will be strictly enforced. We will be utilizing no contact thermometers as students are greeted in the carpool line. No child will be admitted to class with a temperature of 100.4 or higher.
- We will limit access to the building and will not permit late check-ins.
- Children will not be permitted back to class if checked out early for any reason.
- Handwashing upon entering the classroom.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented throughout the day and every evening.

We have studied the CDC and WHO recommendations for face coverings and will **not require** face coverings in our Toddler and Primary communities. We will take reasonable precautions to ensure that each student and staff member are healthy prior to being admitted to the classroom and will be cleaning throughout the day. For our Elementary and AP communities, face coverings will be optional.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The DMS Board of Directors had already decided that we would not be raising our tuition rates for the 2020-2021 school year. With consideration of the required closure this past spring, we have now decided that not only will we not be raising tuition, we will be lowering it. You can view the new tuition rates for the 2020-2021 school year by following this link:

<link tuition rates>

We will remain flexible in terms of enrollment, however due to the new requirements for limiting class sizes, enrollment will be on a first come, first serve basis.

We are excited to welcome our students back to the classroom this fall!

Phillip D. Willingham
Head of School