



Washington Montessori Public Charter School

2330 Old Bath Hwy.
Washington, NC 27889
Phone: (252) 946-1977 Fax: (252) 946-5938
www.wmpcs.org

March 24, 2020

Dear WMPCS Families and Community,

What extraordinary days these are!

First and foremost, we hope you and your families are well, safe, and limiting your exposure.

While there is a lot of uncertainty with all of our lives, we are reminded how special and unique our community is and are thankful for all of your support, well wishes, and understanding as we navigate through this campus, or onsite, instructional closure. As most of you are aware, Governor Roy Cooper signed an executive order that closes grades K-12 in-person instruction until May 15th. While certainly not ideal, our guides and staff training and instructional practices are based on ensuring that we have adaptable and independent students. This is not something we ever would have hoped for, but we are prepared to continue with their instruction because while our campus is closed, their development continues.

Over the last week, our guides have done a remarkable job in creating remote learning environments for your students. We have created and taken some of the best resources available internationally in developing our remote learning environment. Our focus is, and continues to be the development of the whole child, not just the rote memorization of facts and figures. While there will be some online learning, we will strive in the coming weeks to implement our pedagogy of independence, creativity, research, observation, and choice. The lessons prepared by our guides implement other Montessori pedagogical tenets which include following the child, encouraging intrinsic rewards and motivation, contextual learning, adult interaction (that's you and us virtually!), and order in the environment. As guides and family members, we will be creative to ensure the students' learning opportunities remain experiential: promoting an uninterrupted work cycle when possible, incorporating practical life (yes, they know how to clean, assist in preparing meals, return things to their proper place, etc.). This is why we Montessorians call this *remote* learning rather than online learning.

Tomorrow, we will have two Zoom call-in meetings for Q and A's about our transition to a remote instruction model. We will increase the number of Zoom meetings as needed. Much of our information is located on the Covid19 WMPCS page or in the School responses to parent questions. As a reminder, this is a changing environment, and we will adapt as needed to meet the state's requirements in our Montessori model.

Tomorrow we will have the first meeting at 11:00 a.m. and a later one at 7:00 p.m. These meetings will be "call-in" meetings and are not video conferences. If needed, we will schedule video conference meetings with families and Guides by level starting on Thursday or Friday.

By now you should have received communication from your child's classroom guides or by level. If you have not, please contact us directly so we can update our records. As mandated by the State, beginning on Monday, March 30th, we will shift towards an entirely remote learning environment.

In Secondary, it is vital that you, and/or your student, check your emails and follow the instructions given by guides regarding assignments and work to be completed at home. The due dates are firm ones, just as if students were on campus. To all students/families, during this time of remote learning, attendance is determined based on contact with and work submission to the student's classroom. Please stay in contact with your child's guides as each of the levels vary in their operational plan based on their students' developmental planes and needs.

If your family needs the internet during this time, please visit the Q and A sheet for additional information. While the buildings are closed to students and families, internet access is also available in the school parking lots.

Thank you for everything you do for our students and community. If there is anything we can assist you with during this time, please let us know.

Darla and Austin