

Paint Branch Montessori School

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Letter from Head of School

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller

Dear PBMS Families,

Until further notice, we are officially moving to a virtual school model on Monday, March 23!

Our teachers have been working non stop since closing school last week per Governor Hogan's ordinances. With the scarce resources teachers have had at home, we have relied on our own skills and ingenuity to produce the best product for our Montessori children. As you can imagine, we are missing being around the children. I personally cannot stop telling my daughter funny stories about my class!

I hope and wish everyone stays calm and healthy while we work out our new reality.

Our Virtual PBMS campus will have a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous technologies. On a daily basis, there will be live Webex meetings for all classes and emailed PowerPoint slides filled with links to activities. In addition, there will be increased access to teachers via email and Webex. PBMS's priority is maintaining a sense of continuity and stability for our PBMS students.

To kickoff this exciting new chapter, we will host a Parent Orientation via Webex on Friday, March 20th at 7pm.

Only one invitation will be sent per family. If a child resides in two separate households each household will receive a Webex invitation very shortly.

In the case that you cannot attend, we will record the meeting and email a link to view the meeting.

This is a new journey we are all going on together, and this is the proposed plan:

- 1) You will receive an invitation to join your child's morning Webex meeting with a teacher the night before the meeting
- 2) You will receive a daily PowerPoint via email by 8:30 am the day of
- 3) You can log in on video, with your child to the morning meeting with a PBMS teacher. The teacher will recreate morning circle time, give the children an opportunity to share with each other, and show the children the day's PowerPoint slides – letting them know what they will do that day
- 4) These morning meetings will be recorded.

- 5) If you can not log in at your appointed time, or if you'd like to watch again, everyone will be emailed a link allowing you to view the meeting
- 6) You may complete the activities at a time that best fits your new home schedule, but we would suggest that you keep up a consistent daily schedule whenever possible
- 7) If you have a question about your child's work, or need to submit an assignment (older primary and elementary students), we have a new email address to reach your child's teacher: pbmsteacher@gmail.com
- 8) All our teachers will have access to this account, so please put your **child's first name and teacher's name in the subject heading**
- 9) Ms. Wendy and Mrs. Grover will be answering questions from their families during the day, and Ms Viola will be answering questions at night.

Webex Class Meeting Schedule:

(Most meetings will last 20-30 minutes except for the hour-long Elementary meeting)

- 8:45am Pre-primary group 1
- 9:15am Pre-primary group 2
- 9:45am Primary group 1
- 10:15am Primary group 2
- 10:45am Elementary

In the meantime, please make sure you have the following items on hand:

1. White computer paper
2. Color and black ink for printers (Office Depot, Target and Amazon have great printers!)
3. Crayons
4. Glue (traditional white glue and/or glue sticks)
5. Paints: tempera, watercolors
6. Colored construction paper
7. Pencils (regular and colored)
8. Safety scissors (if your child is old enough to use them)
9. Your imagination and ingenuity

This model will evolve as we move along and in many cases we will need to change to more traditional educational strategies like worksheets. There will be a learning curve for many of our families too and we want you to know that we are here to help

and support you.

However, be assured that our teachers are doing their best to find free, quality materials that complement or replicate actual Montessori materials.

We expect that we may need to change things here and there as we embark on this new journey. We will communicate any changes that need to be made expeditiously. We thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sunit Grover

Wendy Bayer

Viola Dabrowska

Rebecca Guyot

Paint Branch Montessori School

Office Hours: 8:30am - 3:30pm

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