

Dayton Montessori Society Remote Learning Plan
2020-2021 School Year
Virtual Program Option

Dayton Montessori Society's Virtual Program 2020-2021 School Year

DMS's fully virtual program will be a continuation of each student's individual Montessori education as closely as can be achieved without in-person classroom attendance.

DMS's Virtual Program will be:

- fully coordinated, conducted, and created by DMS staff following the Montessori curriculum as closely as possible.
- synched with the in-class learning as closely as possible allowing for expected individual differences.

DMS's Virtual Program will include:

- daily live full group community meetings for each class.
- live small group lessons or meetings as appropriate.
- live individual lessons.
- a personalized curriculum and assignments based on the child's development and progression.
- a combination of digital learning activities and caregiver-created (with specific teacher direction), hands-on learning materials.

DMS's Virtual Program will use:

- Zoom for live full group, small group, and individual meetings.
- a digital platform for parent and student communication, work assignment delivery and management, and teacher assessment and feedback.

Students will:

- attend live lessons and meetings with their teacher and class via Zoom.
- work on assignments at their own appropriate pace as they do in our Montessori classroom with the guidance of teachers and oversight of caregivers. (Older students may have due dates on some assignments.)

Caregivers will:

- provide a working environment where your student can focus well.
- provide a quiet space for Zoom meetings and behavioral oversight during meetings if needed.
- provide daily oversight and encouragement for students.
- communicate regularly with the teacher about student progress and challenges.
- provide a dedicated internet-enabled device with the following capabilities:
 - clear microphone, audio, and video capabilities

- a keyboard
- a mouse, stylus, or touch screen capabilities.
- provide a printer.
- provide printer paper and cardstock.
- provide a device for taking photos or scanning.
- provide supplies and space to organize work and materials (more specifics will be provided).
- provide normal school supplies such as writing paper, colored paper, pencils, erasers, colored pencils, glue, ruler, scissors, etc.
- occasionally pick up (no contact) some physical materials from school.

The Dayton Montessori Society Board has approved the plan to have a one-year Virtual Learning Program offered to students, with the goal of allowing at-home learning for students who intend to return to the school in the following year. Our goal is to continue the students' Montessori education using hands-on materials and Montessori methodologies with the option to not attend in the physical school building.

Instruction will be provided by one of our licensed Montessori classroom teachers who will be exclusively teaching the Virtual Program this year.

1. A description of how student instructional needs will be determined and documented.

Students will be assessed in the first week of the virtual program through observational assessment during large group, small group, and individual lessons. The virtual teacher will use the normal Montessori methods to assess where in the curriculum the student is for each area, and begin his/her individualized curriculum there. Most students are returning and will begin where they left off in the previous spring. Students new to our program will be assessed and their records from the previous school used for comparison.

2. The method to be used for determining competency, granting credit and promoting students to higher grade levels.

Students will be presented lessons during large group, small group, and individual meetings every week via Zoom. They will receive follow-up work via Seesaw and will have many options for submitting work using various methods according to their own learning styles.

Students will work toward mastery, as usual in the Montessori classroom, and will be granted the opportunity to repeat and revise work when appropriate. Learning plans will be individualized, as is the norm in a Montessori classroom. Students will advance to the next part of the curriculum when they have demonstrated an acceptable level of competency. Follow up assignments will be available for repeated use.

Students in the Montessori classroom advance at their own pace through the curriculum and advance on a three-year cycle in each level. The same will be true in the virtual program.

3. The school's attendance requirements, including how the school will document participation in learning opportunities.

Student's will be given credit for attendance and participation if they have done the following

- Attend scheduled video conferencing meetings
- Check in with the teacher in her office hours
- Turn in assignments on the online platform by assigned due dates/according to age-appropriate expectations

4. A statement describing how student progress will be monitored.

Progress of each student will be monitored by the teacher through

- Observational assessments during live group and individual teaching meetings
- Assessment of work turned in on the online platform.
- Use of record keeping in accordance with Montessori methodology

5. A description as to how equitable access to quality instruction will be ensured.

Students will have access to their work on the Seesaw platform and may download to work offline. Parents have the opportunity to choose to create or purchase learning materials for use during lessons, or they may use free online versions.

Parents who cannot purchase or access online materials may request paper copies from the school.

6. A description of the professional development activities that will be offered to teachers.

Our virtual teacher has spent the summer researching and learning online platforms to access the best platform for our students. She is encouraged to continue to attend training sessions in computer-based education at the cost of the school to enhance her teaching skills. Our virtual teacher is a part of many online communities of other Montessori teachers providing temporary virtual instruction, as well. All in-service learning opportunities for in-person teachers will be offered to our virtual staff live or via video conferencing.