



## REMOTE LEARNING PLAN, FY2021

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Gloria Dei Montessori supports children's connection to their learning, rather than just "completing assignments." According to Montessori philosophy, a communal sense of exploration, curiosity, ownership, responsibility, connection and discovery results in deeper and more meaningful experiences for students. Fostering independence is key. Parents are encouraged to respond to children in a way that empowers them to find their own answer through additional resources, critical thinking, or working together. Parents are encouraged to lead children to find the answers themselves by asking the right questions. While completion of work is important to Montessori programs, process is deemed more important as well as what is learned while learning is taking place. The ultimate goal is great enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

Remote learning will be provided to any student who chooses this option as long as Montgomery County is at a Level 3 Emergency Level or higher and may be offered for the rest of the FY2020 school year in some instances. Some classroom communities reserve the right to meet in person only when the Covid-19 situation is at Emergency Level 2 or lower. All classrooms are aware that they may find themselves in a quarantine-at-home situation.

In order to improve distance learning, equitable and adequate internet access will be offered to any low-income families who struggle with connectivity. All students first grade and above will be offered a functioning laptop, chrome book, think pad or think book. Instructions concerning the use of learning platforms (google classroom and/or zoom) will be offered to all students. Each child's access to learning opportunities will be individually assessed using many avenues of outreach and will take into account the individual wishes of families for safety during the pandemic.

The instructional needs of students and their progress through the Montessori curriculum will be determined by observations of parents and teachers, by work samples and by occasional assessments. The instructional needs of teachers will be met via training (already offered) on the use of online platforms and the provision of effective computer equipment.

Group meetings (whether via zoom or google classroom) will follow a predictable schedule and attendance will be tracked. Students will need to be online, with their video on, when the teacher is holding class. Students who have an excused absence can watch the video recording or call/email the teacher during study hall time.

Online instruction for Middle School and High School students will be provided in Google Classroom, Pearson, Prodigy and My Lexia. Clear expectations and objectives will be provided via hard copy AND posted in google classroom. Clear communications will be maintained with parents using many avenues of outreach including, but not limited to, What's app, email, text, and google classroom. Progress reports will be generated two or more times per school year.