

A return to in-person learning for the academic year 2021-2022

Greetings to all of our returning parents and many new families to the CMS family. We look forward to welcoming each and every one of you after a tumultuous past 18 months of learning. We hope to return to in-person learning for the first day of the academic year on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021.**

We have worked tirelessly throughout the past few weeks to keep abreast of the government guidelines and to update our protocols and working practices for a safe return to school this fall. As we continue to prepare our campuses for this return to another exciting academic year, we have highlighted below some of the most frequently asked questions many of you have communicated with us in the past week. At this time, we know many parents have questions about the return to classes and the safety of each one of our students. All updated COVID-19 policies and protocols will continue to be updated on our website (www.cmschool.net).

We continue to take every possible measure to ensure a healthy and safe return of our students and staff. Additional measures such as improved ventilation, hygiene and cleaning protocols, and other strategies to minimize the risk of transmission continue to be points of discussion in our administration meeting and action procedures. It should be noted that we have individual HVAC systems for the majority of our campus classrooms. These systems use fresh air from outdoors to provide high indoor air quality and are equipped with filters that are designed to reduce airborne pollutants including virus particles. These filters are replaced regularly. In addition, the classroom windows are opened daily and HEPA air purifiers are also being used.

We continue to consider and plan for our students' mental well-being by planning and implementing a tiered approach for mental health supports that will capture all of our students and staff. We are pleased to also share that a great majority of our staff (more than 95%) are fully vaccinated and the very small few who are not yet vaccinated due to medical/religious reasons will undergo regular testing.

We will reopen with Monday to Friday in-person delivery of learning. However, we will also have a distance learning option for casa and elementary parents who are still apprehensive about sending their children back on campus. Kindly complete this survey by August 24th in order for us to plan for these classes.

We continue to work with the CMS community to ensure a smooth return to classes this fall. Kindly continue to seek updates on the website and through these communications. We look forward to welcoming you all in September.

Yours Sincerely,

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CMS frequently asked questions for the start of the term:

1. Do I still need to fill out the online screening form each morning?

Completing the COVID-19 self-assessment form before arriving at school is still essential and we encourage all parents to keep this form on their phones for ease of completion each morning. This form will be checked by CMS admin upon school entry. If students are ill or symptomatic they must remain at home.

2. Will my child need to wear a mask?

Yes. All Grade 1-12 students are mandated to wear masks. Our Junior and Senior Casas are also strongly encouraged to do so.

3. Will the children be able to take off their masks at any time during the school day?

Yes. During snack time, lunchtime, some of the more strenuous physical activities and when they are outside for recess.

4. How will physical distancing be maintained?

We shall continue to enforce all the physical distancing that we can in each of our classrooms. We shall also keep each class separate so that cohorts do not mix in school. The TPH guidelines on this matter will be strictly adhered to. Moving activities outdoors whenever possible to allow for more distancing and fresh air.

5. Will we be allowed on campus as parents?

At present no. But we will write to you with plans to hold Orientation Day for the start of term outdoors to enable us to have as normal a return to classes as possible whilst still welcoming all of our parents and students. The casa and elementary children will be invited into the building during orientation, after undergoing the screening process to visit their classrooms.

6. What will learning look like this year for my child returning to campus?

Although we remain a committed Montessori school we shall continue to restrict the student movement within their class to ensure that distancing is maintained. Students will therefore have assigned seatings and a place for their work depending on their Montessori program to ensure their continued safety.

7. How will you continue to ensure the students reached their highest potential?

Within a Montessori classroom, every child works at their own pace. The teachers will be assessing the students during the first couple of weeks to find each child's needs and will develop an individual learning program for that child.

8. Will there be extra-curricular activities in person?

Yes. Following TPH guidelines we shall assemble another set of exciting activities to offer you when TPH announces these programs may continue.