



DEARBORN HEIGHTS MONTESSORI CENTER

A school that inspires

August 27, 2020

Dear Montessori Families,

Hello! We've been silent for a while, but that doesn't mean we haven't been thinking about you. The reality is quite the contrary—plans are well underway for the upcoming school year, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome you (at a distance) and your children (in person) back to school on September 9.

The six-week summer program at Plymouth-Canton Montessori was a great success, and also served as a proving ground for the many safety protocols we have put into place. Our first goal, as always, is to keep your children, and, by association, you and your family, safe and well.

Without going into a lot of detail in this letter, we've learned how to manage comings and goings, how to serve the children in smaller cohort groups in order to limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus, how to facilitate social distancing, and how to increase sanitation. Although these practices seemed somewhat daunting at first, most of them have become second nature. As NAEYC-accredited schools, we were already implementing many of the safety and sanitation recommendations by the CDC, LARA (licensing) and the Wayne County Health Department. Our protocols always meet—and often exceed—both requirements and recommendations.

Our administrative team pays close attention to executive orders from our Governor, and the many documents providing guidance from our regulatory agencies. As you know, the COVID-19 landscape is continually changing, as knowledge about the virus and how to combat it increases. We have attended many webinars; shared ideas with other schools; researched and found sources for the PPE, supplies, and equipment needed to keep your children and our staff safe; and planned...and planned...and planned. We are ready!

You have already received a copy of our schools' COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan; it is also posted on all three websites. The plan was drafted and distributed several weeks ago. Since then we have created addenda in areas where recommendations and/or requirements have changed, where we modified a policy on our own, or where we wanted to add detail to the more general plan. We also updated our sick child policy. The latest versions of the Sick Child Policy-Health Care Policy for all schools and the drop-off/pickup plans for Dearborn Heights, along with addenda to the Plan (concerning masks and exposure/illness) can be found using the link below. Please take some time to review this latest information—it is important!

[Click here for COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Updates](#)

We wanted also to take this opportunity to let you know about a communication that will be coming your way in the next few days. Several families have asked if there is anything they might do to assist our schools, by supplying needed equipment, or defraying the many costs involved in meeting safety and sanitation protocols. In response, our staff has put together a wish list of needs small and large, and families who would like to support our battle against COVID-19 are welcome to join in. Like our Families for Families campaign (which is still active) there will be website links, and participation is totally optional. Stay tuned for the details.

You will be receiving more standard back-to-school information shortly, although the hall pickup delivery system we have used in the past will be replaced by pandemic-appropriate means. In the meantime, enjoy what remains of the summer break, and please stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Kay Neff and Laura Springer

