



Survey Outcome and 2020-2021 School Year Reopening

July 31, 2020

Dear NWMS Community,

Once again, we send you warm greetings hoping that this notice finds you enjoying good health and other kinds of blessings in the company of your loved ones. Thank you very much for your prompt participation in answering the NWMS Reopening Survey Form.

Your input is greatly appreciated and unbelievably valuable to us in the process of organizing our back-to-school accommodations according to the different options expressed by you in the survey. The first outbreak of the present pandemic took us all completely off base forcing us to implement Montessori education via virtual instruction for all the students. Needless to say, as fantastic and breathtaking as cybernetics is for some tasks (especially in the adult world), this method of teaching and Montessori do not go that well. It may work well in traditional schools but not in Montessori ones for obvious reasons. We heard from various traditional education teachers expressions of disappointment as a result of moving from in-person to virtual instruction.

Having said that, this time we feel we're better prepared to face the challenges ahead of us while these pandemic times continue; and without a doubt the input we acquired through your participation in answering the survey has been key toward that end.

Unfortunately, not all families responded to the survey. So, we will proceed to give you the "final" numbers by level and the plans to work with the school's families whose children will be attending the 2020 / 2021 Academic year.

First, we will begin by letting you know that in the midst of so many changes (almost on a daily basis!), our Texas Health and Human Services Licensing Representative, Mr. Julian Piedra informed us that since our school is licensed by his department due to the fact that we service children 3-years and under, **THE WHOLE SCHOOL** qualifies as a day care center (please refer to the bottom part of the fourth paragraph of our letter dated July 17, 2020). What this means is that we will be able to open our school for **ALL** the students on **Aug. 17, 2020**. In other words, no student needs to wait until Sep. 8 to attend on-campus school as we had anticipated before. We have communicated this information to the parents that observed the Registration Dates and stopped by the school to complete the process and to those who called the school's office.

Secondly, here are the numbers from the survey.

- 1) There was a total of 83 responses. This, of course, represents 100%.
- 2) Out of those 83 responses, 47 responded “on site campus full time”. That means 57%.
- 3) 19 responded “on site campus part time and virtual learning part time”. That is a 23%.
- 4) 17 responded “virtual learning full time”, which represents 20%.

Third, let us break up those numbers for each level.

- ❖ **Young Children’s Nido** – 3 children will attend “on campus full time”.
- ❖ **Young Children’s Community** – 9 children will attend “on campus full time”, 1 child will attend “on campus part time and virtual learning part time”, 2 children’s parent responded “virtual learning full time”.
- ❖ **Children’s House Class “D”** – 9 children will be attending “on campus full time”, 4 students will be attending “on campus part time and virtual learning part time” and 3 children will be attending “virtual learning full time”.
- ❖ **Children’s House Class “E”** – 9 children will be attending “on campus full time”, 3 children will attend “on campus part time and virtual learning part time” and 2 student’s parents responded “virtual learning full time”.
- ❖ **Lower Elementary** – 9 students will attend “on campus full time”, 5 students will attend “on campus part time and virtual learning part time”, 4 students will attend “virtual learning full time” and 1 student’s parents are undecided.
- ❖ **Upper Elementary** – 10 students will attend “on campus full time”, 5 students will attend “on campus part time and virtual learning part time”, 5 students will attend “virtual learning full time” and 1 student’s parents are undecided.

These are the numbers we have thus far. As we said it before, there are still plenty of families who have not responded or even contacted the school. Therefore, these numbers are far from being the final count. Some, no doubt, waiting for this letter’s data; others, because they are still undecided, etc. In any case, we hope that as they read this notice, they will be encouraged to contact us with their concerns and questions. Either Mr. Oscar Gonzalez or Mr. Portillo will take the time to answer those questions to the best of our ability and with the professionalism you deserve.

Fourth, in our last letter we went over the so called “block schedules”. After considering the survey’s response, we can assert that such schedules will no longer be necessary in the format we proposed them. As you could see, the number of students we are presently counting on attending school either on campus or hybrid, will allow us to design those “block schedules” in a slightly different manner. Say for example, Children’s House Class “D”. The 9 students attending “on campus full time” plus the 4 students attending “on campus part time and virtual learning part time” will at one-point amount to 13 students attending at the same time. This

number allows us to receive them all together 5 days a week. The modified child care ratios for Children's House ages with two caregivers in the same room is 20. Noticeably we are way under that minimum standard, as you can clearly see. If the number of students rises as we go, we will simply add them either in the morning or the afternoon sessions, as long as we remain within the allowed ratio. By the way, the existing standard (under normal circumstances) for that aged group is 35. The same criteria will be used for the rest of the levels. That is the way we designed the block schedules. If you are still unclear about this issue, you may call us and we will be happy to explain it to you as best as we can.

Finally, in our last letter we unfolded the health protocols we put into effect during the Summer Camp. Therefore, it is not necessary to take any more space in this notice to explain that aspect of the back-to-school procedures. If anything, those protocols will be upgraded with others upon those already existing. Please take notice that the 2020 – 2021 yearly calendar will be uploaded into our website. You immediately will notice that regarding the calendars from prior years, it contains only the essential dates on it. Dates such as United Nations parade, curriculum seminar, parents' nights and other dates do not appear here. Other dates, such as parent/teacher conferences and scholastic book fair are tentative dates contingent to the severity or the lowering in numbers of the COVID-19 pandemia.

Always wishing that the information provided in these notices is of benefit to your decision-making process, we hope to hear from you very soon. Again, please take care of yourselves and your family. Thank you for your continued support to New World Montessori School as your children's developmental environment.

Respectfully and lovingly submitted,

Francisco X. and Ines F. Portillo

NWMS Principal and Academic Coordinator, respectively