



Newport Montessori School
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NMS is a non-profit school

Christy Whipple, Head of School

Olivia Bascom, Administrative Assistant

June 30, 2020

Dear Families,

The Newport Montessori School will safely reopen our doors in the fall of 2020 to provide the high-quality Montessori education to which you and your children are accustomed. There are over 80 children from prekindergarten to eighth grade and 16 staff members, so it is critical that we take the time necessary and conduct the research to consider a variety of aspects of the re-opening process. We are taking leadership on this so we can be transparent, diligent and effective.

To plan for re-opening in the safest way possible, our School Board of Directors has formed a team of skillful professionals, some of whom are also invested parents from our school to examine the cautionary measures we will need to take. We will continue to meet throughout the summer to plan each phase. **The goal is to develop and implement a comprehensive safety plan to minimize the influences of virus(es), including but not limited to COVID-19, on the childrens' educational experience.**

Team Members:

Christy Whipple, Head of School & Educator

Ashleigh McFarlin, Board of Directors & Banking

Kate Sargent, Board of Directors, Educator & Parent

Todd Bersaglieri, Educator

Diane Brenker, Educator

Dominique Aldridge, Educator

Dr. Susan Mooney, Physician & Parent

Sean List, Attorney-At-Law, *Backus, Myers & Branch*

Mike Correa, Insurance, *McCrillis & Eldredge*

We will devise the plan in three phases:

Phase One: Inquiry

What do we need to know and consider?

Phase Two: Plan Development

What actions do we need to take initially and in an ongoing way?

Phase Three: Implementation and Monitoring

How effective is the plan?

We began the planning process with questions about the COVID-19 and the Corona Virus for the physicians that our school has access to through the NH Department of Education. The team discussed informed insights about current international data available about the ways in which the virus has been transmitted among various age groups. *The committee will continue to monitor current knowledge about the disease so we can operate entirely on facts, not fear:*

- ◆ Examination of the CDC Guidelines
- ◆ Updates on date of transmission patterns
- ◆ Develop ongoing training for students, staff, and families
- ◆ Review of behavioral and traffic patterns in school spaces (classrooms, hallways, lunch room etc)
- ◆ Guide the purchase of proper materials and supplies

In addition, the committee will be taking a closer look at *fiscal implications and policy impact:*

- ◆ Funding impacts
- ◆ Available economic resources (federal grants)
- ◆ School policy updates
- ◆ Consistent communications to the school community stakeholders

We will continue to break down the *educational perspectives:*

- ◆ Curriculum and instructional practices, contingency plans for additional potential extended closings
- ◆ Effects of guidelines on educational interactions between teachers and students
- ◆ Scheduling or space planning considerations as related to transmission patterns
- ◆ Psychosocial impact of school return, social distancing, extended absences on children and staff

Throughout the process, we will continue to learn and refine our plans and send out communications to keep you informed. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the volunteers on this team who have graciously donated their expertise and time to help assure that we can intelligently prepare to continue the good work with these children, this staff, and the supportive families of our school community.

Be well,

Christy M. Whipple, M. Ed, Head of School