3/30/2020

Dear Parents,

This morning, Governor Ducey and Superintendent Hoffman released the following joint statement:

“In alignment with yesterday’s updated federal guidance, today we are announcing the extension of school closures through the remainder of the school year. Today’s announcement is intended to give parents and educators as much certainty as possible so they can plan and make decisions. While this isn’t the outcome any of us wanted, we are grateful for the partnership of schools around the state, who have stepped up to offer virtual and take-home learning opportunities for our students. These efforts are crucial, and we recognize that schools are making every effort possible to continue providing instruction during closures. Our number one priority will continue to be health and safety, and we will continue to work closely with public health officials to make the best decisions for kids, families, and our school communities.”

It is with a heavy heart that we announce this school closure until the end of the year. While we know that home really is the best place for our students during this uncertain period of time, we wish we could have spent the last remaining months together as a Montessori de Santa Cruz family. We miss you all!

While our physical building is closed until next school year, it remains our responsibility to provide education through the next few months. For some, we know that distance learning is not ideal, however we must continue to push forward. Please communicate your challenges to us, and we can provide support! We know that it is hard to remain focused on school work during this time, we hope that students and parents can bond over school work and that it provides consistency during this time.

A few things to remember as we navigate through our distance learning plan are:

- **Teacher Check ins**: please continue to lookout for your teacher’s phone calls each week. Each teacher will be calling to check in on your learning progress until May 22nd (the last day of school).
- **Moby Max and classwork due**: Make time to work on Moby Max each day, check with your teacher to be sure you are meeting the state requirements for learning minutes. Check with your teacher to ensure due dates are met.
- **Special Education Services**: The special ed dept. is required to continue to meet instructional requirements each week. Sped services will be reaching out to families that require services to work out instructional times that best work for your family.
- **Enrollment for next year**: Look out for enrollment packets. They will be sent out in the mail OR will be available for pickup at school. Please lookout for a call to verify your address and how you would like to receive the packet. We look forward to a fresh start next year.
- **Testing**: The Arizona State department of Education has submitted a waiver for this year’s testing season. This means testing will not happen. We are awaiting news on what this means for our letter grade, any solid information we receive from the state will be communicated to you.

We know there have been many questions of report cards, and what transitions will look like this year. As of today, we have requested that information from the state. We ask for your patience on the answers to these questions as we work them out with our state leaders. We will communicate with you all as we receive that information.

As always, we wish safety and health to our families. We ask for increased communication during this time, if there is something you need, please reach out to us. We are here for you. Thank you all for a wonderful year and we look forward to connecting with you virtually! -MdSC staff