



Dear TMA Families, Faculty, Staff and Students:

For the health of our community, The Montessori Academy will be closing school from Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27th, with plans to reevaluate at that time with the potential of remaining closed until Monday, April 13th. More specific details are below:

We write to update you with information about the novel Corona virus nCoV-19 and COVID-19 its associated disease. This has been an extremely fluid period of time and we are grateful to the community for conversations, concerns and taking these events as seriously as you have.

Several weeks ago, we met and drafted a response plan for the school in case of a serious pandemic plan. Teachers were informed and the school started transitioning to a public-health mindset in preparation, and mitigation of this unprecedented situation. Everyone has acted with great care, thought and caution. We distributed this about two weeks ago. In it, we outlined steps we would take in case of short, medium and long-term closures of the school and actions to make sure continuity of education and safety are maintained.

We have not recorded any cases of COVID among our community, families and others. Despite this reassuring news, we must act with prudence as good citizens to maintain our community health and more importantly the capacity of our community to provide for healthy outcomes. Given this information, the Board of Trustees with Head of School, Randy Kelly, has decided to close the school now with the anticipation of a return on March 30th, while understanding circumstances may require a longer closure. The health and welfare of the TMA families is a priority. We understand the burden this places on our families, and in the coming days will provide as much assistance as practical.

The Board of Trustees and Mr. Kelly have been in near-constant contact with each other, public health officials and others during this developing situation. We are confident in our plan and in the decisions Randy has made within the past few weeks. We have communicated frequently, proactively and we think appropriately for our community and school. We are grateful to Randy for his kindness, time, and reflection in an overwhelming situation.

Our teachers are ready to roll out instruction and online communication. Our Lower Elementary teachers have sent home work packets for this possibility and our Upper Elementary Leads have provided work, texts, and have been working on an online classroom community through Google Classroom. Teachers will be in school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week to communicate with you and to finalize their remote learning practices. We will consider Monday through Wednesday days off, similar to snow days, and begin e learning on Thursday. Please anticipate further information from teachers regarding the virtual curriculum as well as how you can help guide your student through their studies.

We will continue to communicate with you about the status of the pandemic as it relates to our community.

Thank you,

Matthew M. Champion

President, TMA Board of Trustees