



**STERLING**  
**MONTESSORI**

EST. 1997

# January Re-Opening Elementary Q/A

# EXPECTATIONS

- Keep yourself on mute until it's your turn to ask a question
- Write questions in chat box and a teacher will gather them for the question portion at the end
- Limit one question per person until we've been able to get through everyone's first question
- We are here to discuss how we will be reopening, not whether or not we should reopen

# AGENDA

- Brief Overview of Important Points
- Address Questions from Survey
- Answer Questions from the Chat
- Open the Floor for Additional Questions

# PLANS

## Blended Learning MODIFIED Plan A

- Minimal Social Distancing
- Blended Learning Grades 1 -5

## Blended Learning Plan B

- Moderate Social Distancing
- Blended Learning
  - 6th years

## Distance Learning

- All students are fully remote.

# What is Blended Learning?

- Class of 28 is split into 2 smaller groups
- Each group will alternate 1 week in-class and 1 week at home with work plans
- Week at School: Montessori work cycle
- Week at Home: Follow-up from lessons, daily group lesson/ attendance check, weekly check-in.

# Important Points Blended Learning

## Changes at School

- No use of microwaves, lockers, cloth placemats
- Face shields worn only with masks
- Face mask protocols
- Bring extra face masks to school
- Individual work rugs
- Sneeze guards
- Playground time (2LE/2 UE out at a time)
- Afternoon temp checks
- Early dismissal on Friday (prepare and clean)
- Health screening during carpool
- Before Care 8AM
- No Aftercare

# Important Points Blended Learning

## Placement Process in Blended Learning:

- Retain rosters as much as possible
- Balance Classrooms
  - Gender
  - Diversity
  - Individual Needs
  - Siblings on same track
  - Numbers

# Our #1 Goal in Blended Learning

**Prioritize the health and safety of  
the Sterling community.**



# Important Points Distance Learning

- Teachers will be confirmed once we know how many families choose the Distance Learning Option
- Platforms will stay the same
- Montessori Curriculum
- Consistency with community events
- Outcomes the same -distance and blended will need to look differently

# Important Points Distance Learning

- Virtual Specials - PE, Music, Spanish (4th - 8th)
- Art Resources provided
- Looking at providing more social/collaborative opportunities
- On-going teacher training and oversight
- Always Evolving

# TRANSITION CONSIDERATIONS

## Preparation is Key

**Teachers and environments are ready!**

- Consistency and predictability
- Realistic expectations
- Providing social /connection opportunities
- Individualizing
- Observations guiding next steps
- Time, patience and understanding
- Additional Resources
- Partnership and Team collaboration

# How we made our decision?

- Studied NCDHHS recommendations
- Evaluated resources - faculty, rooms, resource staff and substitutes
- Budget considerations and purchase of necessary supplies to return safely (shield, signage etc.)
- Administrative team worked with teaching teams to determine next steps.
- Health and safety is our first priority.

# Keep in Mind.....

- Our top priority is always going to be the health and welfare of students and staff.
- Our goal is to get students back to campus.

# Parent Questions:



# Why Can't My Child's Placement Stay the Same?

- We need to have balanced classrooms
- Teachers on campus vs. Teachers with accommodations who will need work at home.
- Students whose teachers will be teaching remote need to be placed.

# Why pull out the sixth years?

- They need to follow Plan B
- Only in blended learning - distance learning will continue to be a mixture.
- Wanted them to be a part of a culture of students where expectations are consistent
- Good opportunity to form community before they move to MS



# What will placement look like next fall ?

- Goal: Multi-Age classes
- Retain as much of the placement process that we can.
- Minimize any changes

# How will we meet the individual needs of students who may be in a new environment?

- January - Assessments/ Benchmarking
- Collaboration/ Information sharing from teachers during the placement process.
- Lessons are meant as assessments
- Student Goal - setting conversations/conferences.
- Conferences with parents
- Virtual Meet and Greet

# Can we change tracks after the initial choice is made ?

- Families who opt-in to Sterling's Distance Learning Track will be enrolled in the program for the duration of the school year
- Students can not join the in-class Blended Learning Track once enrolled in the Distance Learning Track
- Depending on the number of families choosing Distance Learning, if an extenuating or emergency circumstance arises, it may be possible to switch to distance learning

# When will students need to stay home or leave school immediately?

- They have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not met criteria for returning to school;
- They have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 and have not met criteria for returning to school;
- They have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher; or they are experiencing:
  - Fever (100.4° or higher) or chills
  - New cough (unrelated to allergies)
  - New shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - New loss of taste or smell

# On the blended track - what will the week at home look like?

- Continued use of learning platforms and materials from their kits
- Use of videos for reference
- Join for a daily community meeting/lesson
- Supplementary work or information as needed
- Individualized as much as possible

# What is the plan to open school full time for students who need to be in school full time?

- We will re-evaluate in February at the Board Meeting to see if our blended learning track can come daily.
- Other considerations:
  - Health and safety
  - Resources for Sterling (substitutes)

**Can a student withdraw, enroll in a different school, and then come back to Sterling without having to go through the lottery?**

- If a family chooses to withdraw from Sterling, they will need to go back through the lottery in order to come back to Sterling.

# Next Steps

We need all families to fill out the  
LEARNING TRACK QUESTIONNAIRE

BY:

October 22



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS??

PLEASE USE THE CHATBOX