



Fall Re-Opening Updates

Our New Normal

Jan's Share

We were all so excited to see all of the children back this week! We know how resilient children can be, and we also know that they can reflect the feelings and anxiety in their environment. This week, the teachers did an excellent job of welcoming the children with love and also provided a quiet and peaceful environment. These qualities contributed to a calm and nurturing space.

Our plans and preparations seem to be working out. The students are doing great with handwashing and wearing their face coverings. Carpool is generally going well and is moving as quickly as we could have imagined given the extra steps involved. Thank you for your patience and cooperation! Please take care to wear your face masks while the teachers are reaching into your vehicle.

Over the first few months of school, our focus is on *normalization*. Briefly, Dr. Montessori stated that normalization refers to the focus, concentration, and independence of the children, by their own choice. It **means** they have acquired the internal freedom to initiate work, be independent, and adhere (by choice) to the rules of the environment. This begins with a focus on the many grace and courtesy lessons and familiarity with the environment.

Please email the teachers or call the school if you have any questions or concerns as we begin our journey together into the new school year!

Dear CMS Families,

A few words from our Head of School, Billie Andersson

This week we eagerly welcomed our students back to campus for the first time since March 13th. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the first week back so special (and safe!) for the children. It has been no small feat to get where we are (in terms of safety measures) and our journey together through the fall will require discipline and vigilance from our entire community. With that in mind, our

re-opening team has worked to create **2 new tools** for you. Please review the attached **Return to School decision aid** and the **CMS COVID Commitment** documents. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns about these tools.

We want to thank everyone who supported our Kendra Scott fundraiser last week. With the generosity of our community making \$1825 in purchases, we were able to raise \$365 in our first fundraiser of 2020-21. As I'm sure you can imagine, there are a great number of additional expenses our school is facing this year – from new physical spaces and materials that are easier to sanitize, to plexi-glass barriers and staff PPE, to cleaning/sanitizing services for our facilities and extra staff, plus more. Even more than an average year, each extra dollar raised will be crucial to delivering on our school's mission.

Over the next couple of months, the CMS Re-Opening team will continue to meet weekly to monitor effectiveness of our plans as well as keep an eye out for new information. We will continue to keep you informed through these newsletters.



Re-Opening Team Meeting Recap:

Regulatory and Medical Updates

- **NECK GAITERS:** we are becoming aware of new information related to gaiters creating greater transmission risk. We are monitoring research closely. If teachers observe any student gravitating towards use of gaiters, we may contact you for a conversation.

COVID Policy, Procedure & Infrastructure Updates

- New outdoor Primary classroom (Juniper) is complete!
- The extra fence is installed that extends our outdoor space.
- Plexi-glass dividers are in place for all classrooms to use as an extra mitigation measure during snack & lunch times.

Communication & Community Alignment

- Transparent Classroom is being used in new ways this year by CMS to keep information centrally located and at parents fingertips.
- Parents are reminded to please wear face masks at carpool time.