

MES Family Update - July 22, 2020

Happy Wednesday MES Families,

Our weather this week feels marvelously like summer - we hope that, even within our current COVID-19 reality, there are some fun summer adventures occurring.

As we move into crafting the last pieces of our MES Reopening Plan, we are constantly reflecting on the information, sometimes conflicting, about COVID-19. From news agencies, medical experts and a variety of social media platforms, information is being shared and commented on rapidly. This world-wide pandemic has created realities that are very different from our world up to March of this year. Our mission, in creating the plan for our school, was to craft a reopening plan that adheres to all requirements that are outlined by the state, as well maintain the 'MES' that we love. Every section of our reopening plan has been written with a great deal of research and thought. Our dedication to our children, staff and families never wavered.

Through emails, phone calls, and discussions with families and staff that stop by school, there are differing views on how to reopen school safely, as well as create a parallel distance learning track for families that are not sending their children back in the building. Comments by families on their thoughts on elements of reopening were passionately shared and always driven out of love for their children and extended families. At times, our hearts hurt when we would read comments on our survey or have discussions with families.

We would like to thank our MES Reopen Task Force members for their time, critical eye, and passion with helping us create our plan. It was terrific having a group of 20+ members work together to put together a plan that, as best as possible within the guidelines, met the needs of students, families, staff and the MES community.

Our plan will be posted on our website on Friday, July 24th. A Virtual Informational Public Forum on the MES Reopening Plan, as well as an opportunity to ask questions, will be held on **Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 pm**. We look forward to sharing plan specifics, as well as hearing questions from our families. We value our relationships with families and hope that, even in times of high frustration and maybe great uncertainty, families reach out to us directly to share thoughts. Discussions are critical - please join us for our informational session. Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81701017018?pwd=R1RyN09WbnJrR1BQU0RVVWm5tdCtZQT09>

Next week, we will be sending out correspondence asking, after reading the reopening plan and hopefully having any questions you may have had answered at our informational session, what your families plans are for starting school in the fall of 2020 (in-person learning at MES, distance learning from home with MES instruction, or homeschool with no assistance from MES). Once we have these numbers, we will be able to identify staffing and student placement in classroom pods and staffing for distance learning.

On a happy note, please join us for **Virtual Story time** tonight at 6:30 p.m. We love being able to talk to our kids for a few minutes and read them some silly stories. It is hands-down, the highlight of our week. Here is the link for tonight: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83652203295?pwd=VUNKR1oxbzBpYXVuTXY5bTRyNCtVZz09>

Again, thank you for being our partners in this pandemic time. As we all thank our medical professionals, scientists, and essential workers on a daily basis, we hope for happier medical news in the near future.

Hope to see you at Virtual Story time at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Dan & Kim