

## **Remote Learning Plan Secondary Level, Forest Bluff School**

The Forest Bluff Secondary Level Directors are excited to begin working with your children in whichever capacity we find ourselves this fall. We have created a comprehensive plan for remote learning in the event of school closures.

While a challenging one, this past spring provided an invaluable opportunity to observe and learn what worked best during remote learning for this age group. Our priorities for the fall are as follows:

- Maintain a high-level of academic rigor
- Facilitate social connection, both academically through group discussion and socially through games, outdoor activities, etc.
- Build camaraderie and community amongst the new group of children and with their new Directors
- Orient the first-year students to their new classroom
- Provide opportunities for second-year students to lead and guide the incoming students

*This document and plan may potentially evolve with AMI trainer suggestions, insights from other Montessori educators, and as always, with Directors' observations of how children respond.*

### **Building Relationships and Community**

This fall will be a special time for the Secondary Level as we welcome a new community of students and two new new Directors. As such, there is an undeniable need to build student-to-student and student-to-Director relationships, especially if we must do so from afar.

While adolescent children are incredibly capable and self-directed, we feel it is important to provide many points of connection so that the children can get to know each other and get to know us as their Directors. Adolescents are motivated by each other and need those opportunities for social growth.

In addition, adolescent children are looking to the adults in their life for support, compassion, and to guide their sense of morality. The Secondary Level Directors are included in that group of adults, so we feel strongly that they need to get to know us and our values.

These points of connection will be especially frequent in the fall, as we plan to schedule a high number of all-class meetings, discussions, games, and other meaningful group and individual conversations. In turn, these conversations will be invaluable for allowing us as Directors to observe and respond to our students' academic and social-emotional needs.

## **Orienting First Year Students**

As we would in the classroom, the Secondary Level Directors will be in close contact with first year students in the fall to orient them to their new classroom and our expectations for work. The format of these conversations will vary—small group vs. individual meetings—and will include a high frequency of lessons (e.g., what to write in your planner, procedure for working through the Algebra textbook, peer editing, etc.).

### **All Class Meetings**

We will begin each school day with an **All Class Meeting at 8:30 am\***

- These meetings serve as a point of connection for the entire group and also function to orient the students to their virtual classroom, discuss that week's schedule, plan an upcoming trip, and discuss any other logistics.
- All class meetings will have an agenda, be student-led, and one child will take minutes.
- To encourage social connection, some of these meetings will include a game or two!

\*As time goes on, the Secondary Level Directors may choose to reduce the number of all class meetings to two per week (e.g., Monday and Thursday mornings). The students will be notified of this change.

### **Daily Schedule**

#### ***Monday – Thursday***

- **8:30am – 9:00am All Class Meeting**
- **9:00am – 11:30am Morning Work Period**
  - See notes in the following section for information on the Work Period.
- **11:30am – 1:00pm Lunch and Silent Reading**
  - This period of time should be restful, with students making their own lunch and reading silently for at least 30 minutes
- **1:00pm – 2:30pm Afternoon Work Period**
- **2:30pm – 3:00pm All Class Read Aloud**
  - Either Ms. White or Mr. Dutko will read aloud to the class, as we would normally do at the end of each school day.
- **3:00 pm Dismissal**

- **3:00 – 4:00pm Parent Correspondence**
  - Because partnering with parents will be so critical, Secondary Level Directors have set aside a full hour Monday through Thursday to converse with parents. We will be sure to check in with parents as needed, whether that be weekly, monthly, or somewhere in between.

***Friday:***

- **8:30 am – 9:00 am All Class Meeting**
- **9:00 am – 11:30am Morning Work Period and *Individual Weekly Meetings***
  - These will operate exactly as they would in the classroom with a discussion of weekly/yearly goals, planner review, gauge progress in all subject areas, etc.
- **11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch and Silent Reading**
- **1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Afternoon Work Period and *Individual Weekly Meetings***
- **2:30 pm – 3:00 pm All Class Read Aloud**
- **3:00 pm Dismissal**

### **Work Periods**

The morning and afternoon work periods will be a mixture of self-directed, quiet study at home and participation in group lessons, book discussions, poetry readings, etc. The following is a general summary of our expectations of students, as well as what you can expect from the Secondary Level Directors during daily work periods. More details will be given at the start of the school year.

***Students:\****

- Work in a designated work space in your home
- Plan your day and articulate your goals in your planners
- Options for work:
  - Journal entries (two journal entries per week; one creative, one periodical)
  - Periodicals (read one article every day)
  - Mathematics (Algebra textbook, Geometry textbook, etc.)
  - Reading (one to two hours of silent reading daily)
  - Vocabulary (assigned)
  - Grammar (assigned)
  - Typing (minimum of 40 minutes of typing instruction per week)
  - Any other projects, as they come up

**\*These expectations will be conveyed to incoming first year students in a series of meetings with the Secondary Level Directors.**

*Secondary Level Directors will:*

- Give small group lessons each week during morning and afternoon work periods
- Host book discussions and other varieties of discussion
- Facilitate group projects that allow for student collaboration
- Assign vocabulary, grammar work, creative writing, supplemental math work, etc.
- Give feedback and editing on all student work
- Be available to answer questions in between lessons for the entirety of the morning and afternoon work periods (either via phone, email, or video conference)

### **Online Platforms**

*Meetings (individual, group, and all class meetings):*

We will use Zoom for video conferencing.

The Directors will also be available to students by phone and email.

*Submitting Work, Editing, etc.*

We are considering the best options for submitting work using an online platform (e.g., Google Classroom or Seesaw) and email as interfaces. The Secondary Level Directors will give feedback and editing on all student work. As is also true in the classroom, our primary tool for accountability is the weekly individual meeting on Fridays.

### **Weekly Outdoor Activity in Person**

At least once a week and only if safe/permissible by the CDC, we would like to offer an optional outdoor group activity (socially distanced, etc.). The Secondary Level Directors will plan these with the students, but could include a game, skills seminar, outdoor yoga, bike ride, and so on.

Not only will this mirror (as best we can!) the students' outdoor time in a normal school day, but we also hope it will be an opportunity for light-hearted, fun social connection.

### **Trips**

Our intention is to preserve the sanctity of the Secondary Level program by going on three trips each academic year, including the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. The Secondary Level Directors are discussing possibilities and talking to the wider community of outdoor educators and experts to gauge what will be safe and doable. We are up-to-date on CDC and state guidelines pertaining to group gatherings, camping, etc. and will make a decision later in the summer when we have more information about options.

If we cannot participate in overnight trips, we will supplement the remote program with meaningful day trips (following CDC guidelines) and emulate the holistic experience as much as possible.

## **Secondary Level Parent Evenings**

As we would if school were normally in session, our calendar will include monthly parent meetings. All relevant topics will be presented and discussed at these events and attendance is important. The children need socialization and support with their peers, and the parent community does, too! Depending on the situation, these will be socially distanced in person, or virtually over Zoom.