



Dear Sussex Montessori Families,

Thank you to the many families who responded to our request in July and completed the survey providing us with your thoughts about school this fall. We had 293 responses as of August 4, 2020! We learned about your thoughts regarding being on campus and for remote learning all of which helped inform the plan you are receiving today.

On August 4, 2020, Governor Carney shared that schools should open this fall with a hybrid model (face to face instruction and remote learning) and a fully remote learning plan for parents who desire to continue with remote learning for their child. The Sussex Montessori School Covid-19 Task Force finalized the [Sussex Montessori School Opening Plan](#) and the Sussex Montessori School Board approved the plan at a special board meeting held on August 10, 2020. We thank the members of the Task Force for their hard work since forming in early May.

The [Sussex Montessori School Opening Plan](#) provides you with information about the learning plans, safety, transportation and other topics for opening school at Sussex Montessori School. In order to plan for the opening of school, we now need for you to provide us with specific details regarding your intentions for your child this fall. **Please provide us with your commitments by completing [one survey per child by the end of the day on Friday, August 14, 2020.](#)** <https://forms.gle/5NuDiQEawC1YNhaq8>

We understand that these are important decisions. Please know that Sussex Montessori School will provide an exceptional Montessori learning experience for your child regardless of the option you choose. Each family has unique situations impacting your decisions. We ask that you read the plan carefully and understand the protocols the school will follow for on campus learning. It is our hope that we have provided you with the details you need to make a decision that meets the learning needs of your child. Some things that you may want to consider as you make your decision include:

- What health consideration may impact my child's or my family's safety with in person instruction?
- Can my child wear a mask and social distance for an extended period of time?
- Is there an adult or older sibling who can support my child with distance learning during the day?

As you review the plans, please note the following:

- School will open on Monday, September 14, 2020.
- On campus instruction will begin in the modular units.
- If you chose the remote plan, you are making a commitment for the period of **September 14<sup>th</sup> to November 1, 2020.**

- We should be moving to the new classrooms in mid-to end of October at which time we will reevaluate our space, both in classrooms and on busses, and provide an opportunity for parents who have chosen remote learning to reconsider the hybrid plan.
- The hybrid plan presented is a sample plan based on how it would work if all registered children choose this plan.
- We will work to keep siblings on the same schedule and to honor other scheduling requests as much as possible.
- Transportation is offered, but it is highly recommended that if possible, children are driven to school to minimize their exposure. If you choose to drive your children, you are making this commitment for the school year. Extenuating circumstances will be considered based on space available on the busses. Transportation contracts are attached if you need to change your plans.

Once we have this information, we can begin to form classroom groupings, plan for technology support, transportation, lunch distribution, and the many other details that need to be addressed between now and the start of the school year. We appreciate your patience; we know that you may need to coordinate information for your child during remote learning days. We expect to be able to finalize details and communicate with you no later than August 31, 2020.

We know that you will be considering many questions related to your own individual situations. We are available to address questions and help to provide information as you make your personal decision. Please send questions to us at: [info@sussexms.k12.de.us](mailto:info@sussexms.k12.de.us)

Kaneisha and Lisa will be reviewing all the questions and providing an email on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon with the questions we have received and the answers. This way all families will know what is being asked and the responses.

Once again, we thank you for your partnership by responding to this survey by August 14, 2020. We look forward to your thoughts and to completing our next steps as we plan for your child's experience at Sussex Montessori School this fall.

Sincerely,

Lisa Coldiron

Head of School, Sussex Montessori School

Linda S. Zankowsky, Ed.D.

Board Chair, Sussex Montessori School

**Attachments –**

[Opening Plan](#)

[Transportation Contract](#)