



December 8, 2020

Dear Sussex Montessori Families,

Last week, Governor Carney recommended that Delaware school's transition to remote learning December 14 through January 8. This recommendation is intended to allow schools with operational challenges time to plan for the second half of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Governor added that schools not facing operational challenges may remain in hybrid learning. Fortunately, Sussex Montessori School has not yet faced operational challenges that require a transition to virtual learning.

Please know that we are not aware of any COVID-19 cases that originated or spread within Sussex Montessori School. Since September, less than 1% of students and staff statewide who are in public and private schools participating in in-person learning have tested positive. In the Governor's recent message he stated, "Given those facts, there is not really a public health reason to close schools right now. And I believe strongly that students learn better in person."

Consequently, we will continue our current hybrid and remote models for our students until 12/22/2020 and will return for **ONE week of remote learning** the week of 1/4/2021. We anticipate returning to in-person learning the week of 1/11/2021. This week will allow us to connect remotely with all of our students and reassess our safety and operational needs.

We will make good use of the time between now and December 22nd to continually monitor the health and well-being of our teachers, staff and children. Please join us in working closely with our children to understand the importance of wearing a mask that **COVERS** the nose and being aware of social distancing. Please make sure your child's mask is frequently washed and sufficiently covers their nose and mouth. Masks that clasp at the nose are the best. We always have extra masks at school but appreciate your children coming to school prepared. We will be purchasing masks for our teachers that will have increased protection. Families, please remember to wear your mask when you are dropping your children off at school. We are working hard to keep everyone safe so that our children can stay in school and in an in-person learning format.

We are dedicated to serving our students and community in the best way possible. We are in this together!

Please continue to practice COVID-19 courtesies, and as always, stay well families!

Fondly,

Lisa Coldiron
Head of School