



# MONTESSORI DE MANILA

Primary • Elementary • Secondary Levels

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## Learning Continuity Plan Circular 1

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May 4, 2020

### OVERVIEW OF MDM'S LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020 - 2021

#### 1. When will School Year 2020 - 2021 officially start, and will MDM follow this?

MDM will officially start the School Year based on the Department of Education's guidelines and directives. Mode of delivery will be flexible learning.

#### 2. Will MDM do online learning/distance learning?

Upon the official start of the school year, MDM will implement distance learning for as long as it takes until it is fully safe for students to physically go back to school, and when the government's Inter Agency Task Force, DepEd, and the Las Piñas Local Government Unit say it is safe to do so.

Distance learning consists of instruction through print or electronic communications media to persons engaged in learning in a place or time different from that of the instructors or other learners. It has two components: the student's activity and distance teaching (the teacher's activity). It involves group meetings/sessions where students, teachers, and instructional resources (modules, books, audio, video, and graphic displays) allow the student to access the content of instruction and consult with the teacher as needed. (References: Moore, Cookson, & Donaldson, 1990 ; [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com))

We know all households have varying constraints - whether it be adult supervision, technical requirements, student's focus, and the like. We also understand that online learning is vastly different from classroom learning and presents challenges, so MDM will select topics and lessons in a way that will not overwhelm both you (as parent-teacher/parent-supervisor) and your child.

For Casa: Learning Kits will be given out twice a month; these contain weekly goals and modified Montessori classroom materials. Since this is a new set-up for both the teacher and pupils, simplified goals, tasks, and activities will allow the child to master the skill under the guidance of the teacher and with the supervision of the parent.

For Elementary and Secondary Levels: Weekly modules will be given, containing topics in selected areas of study. Learning goals will be limited only to key learning competencies.

#### 3. What areas of study will be included in the Learning Kits/modules?

Casa: Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, and Cultural Arts

Elementary and High School Levels: Teachers are preparing modules for all areas of study included in MDM's curriculum. DepEd is also preparing its learning continuity plans. Once DepEd has released more guidelines on which subjects or areas of study are mandatory to be taught, MDM will follow this.

#### 4. Will there be deadlines, assessments, and grading?

Yes. Deadlines will be spaced out accordingly. Assessments will be in the form of performance tasks and written tasks, and rubrics will be given. MDM has a modified grading system ready, but we will await further DepEd directives. A special Report Card will be issued at the end of each term (or quarter for the SHS). Parent-Teacher Dialogues will still be conducted at the end of the term/quarter via phone call.

#### 5. Will there be work, meetings, and consultations done online?

Yes. Live online meetings with classmates and teachers will be scheduled so teachers can give guidance, feedback, and for students to collaborate with each other. If this is not possible for some students, other forms of communication will be used, i.e. email, phone call or text message, or other social messaging apps. Schedules will be made for students who share devices with their siblings and/or parents.

Elementary and Secondary Levels' modules will also contain links to online activities, videos, apps, etc. These are supplemental and optional.

MDM will make sure all students receive the same quality education, regardless of their online capabilities.

#### **6. What are the requirements for distance learning, and what online Learning Management System will be used?**

A student will need either a laptop, a desktop computer, a tablet (iPad, etc.), or a smartphone. A stable internet connection is also needed. We encourage parents to provide these to maximize your child/ren's learning. Again, if this is not possible, other forms of communication will be used, i.e., email, phone call or text message, or other social messaging apps. MDM will make sure all students receive the same quality education, regardless of their online capabilities.

Google Classroom will be used as the Learning Management System. This is a secure, easy-to-use platform that only requires an email address. For uniformity and easy reference, each reserved or enrolled MDM student will receive a unique Gmail address to be used for online learning. More details about this will be announced soon.

#### **7. Will there be a deduction in school fees because of distance learning?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a financial burden on all. But please bear in mind that school fees cover teachers' salaries, school resources and equipment that teachers continue to use even for distance learning, and related costs. Flexible learning entails double the effort and resources for the school and our dedicated teachers and staff who constantly prepare for two environments: physical and online. They do this despite their personal challenges - taking care of their own families and managing their households while teaching multiple sections of students online, unstable internet connection, hazards in commuting to school when needed, and the like. All months leading to the school year's opening will be used to prepare for this unique set-up, and we are grateful for your continued full support and consideration of their work behind the scenes.

#### **8. Will textbooks, school supplies, and uniforms be used?**

Yes, these will be used when MDM starts its physical (face-to-face) classes on campus. Textbooks are useful resources that will be made available before the start of distance learning classes. However, the purchase of school supplies, e.g., notebooks and uniforms will depend on ECQ conditions. Use of school uniforms will depend on how many months are left in the school year.

#### **9. What health measures will be done to ensure the students go back to a safe and clean campus?**

All health and safety measures implemented since January 2020 will still be in place and will be strongly enforced. These include but are not limited to: daily disinfecting of classrooms, materials, and equipment; temperature checks of all school community members in entrances and during the day, strict monitoring of hand washing, mandatory wearing of a face mask, provision of hand sanitizers by school gates, strict observance of physical distancing, and possibly a staggered schedule of reporting and classes.

**Please take note that all items above are subject to change, depending always on the health situation and on government directives.** Nevertheless, we continue with our work of guaranteeing continuity for students and maintaining the standard of education Montessori De Manila is known for. We welcome any clarifications emailed to [montessoridemanila@pltdsl.net](mailto:montessoridemanila@pltdsl.net).

Allow us to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to parents and students for your sustained support of the school's plans. Your thoughtful messages of concern for our school personnel have all been warmly received. Your trust that the Board of Directors, Management, Faculty, and Staff are up to task and ready to deliver, is sincerely appreciated. May our partnership with you be ever stronger, especially as we strive to reach one common goal: the academic, emotional, and social growth of your children, ensuring for them "A bright future...today!"

Yours in education,

Montessori De Manila Board of Directors, Management, Faculty, and Staff