



High Desert Montessori

High Desert Montessori School Proposed Reopening Plan 2020-2021

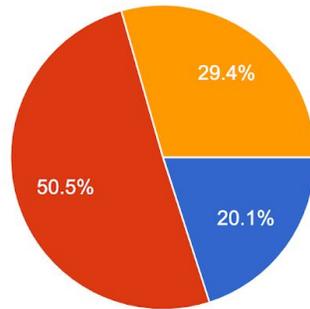
1. **Guidance for HDMS Staff:** The HDMS Staff will be returning to work with concerns, questions, and new stressors that will impact how we communicate and work. Overarching norms including the following:
 - **"he 'ohana mākou":** This translates from Hawaiian as "we are family". "We are family," and families look out for each other. We do the things we need to do to make sure everyone is safe, healthy, and can thrive.
 - **Be flexible:** New guidelines will be in place, but these guidelines will change, possibly frequently. Your ability to adapt to these new demands and support each other will directly impact our ability to adapt and perform.
 - **Be open:** We will keep you informed and encourage all to communicate their needs, questions, and concerns.
 - **Be understanding:** Empathize with others concerns. Understand that all of us are experiencing new and different pressures from home and work.

2. **Key Considerations Based on 20,000 responses from the WCSD June 2020 Survey:**
 - **Safety is the primary consideration.** The safety of students, family members, and staff is the key consideration of most when choosing priorities for the future. Some report having siblings and other family members whose health is compromised.
 - **Call for choice of formats and hybrid approaches.** Many would like to choose between in-person instruction or distance learning. Some also pointed to the need for a hybrid approach to transition more smoothly between each.
 - **Consideration for the learning needs of diverse learners,** including those with disabilities, students who are learning English, and academically advanced or gifted students. Many ask that careful planning be given to these groups.
 - **Many are against enforcement of measures, especially face masks.** Some are against the use of masks for a variety of reasons, such as belief they cause illness, impede social development, and increase behavioral problems.
 - **Consistent use of measures that are grounded in evidence.** Several people ask for the school to choose policies and practices that are grounded in evidence, to be rational, and implement strategies consistently.

3. HDMS Parent Survey Results as of 7.15.20 at 5:00PM

We are looking at several options for the type of learning we will be offering. Please choose which best suits your family's needs when we begin school this fall.

289 responses

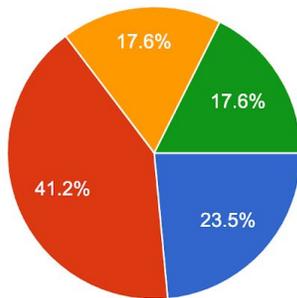


- A full distance learning model, where your child does not come to school and all instruction takes place via Zoom or some other online platform
- A full in-school model where your child comes to school 5 days a week. Under this model, we will observe distancing and safety guidelines as much as pos...
- A model that blends the 2 options above, where your child only attends half time in person, and half time at ho...

4. HDMS Staff Survey Results as of 7.15.20 at 5:00 PM

Washoe County has issued guidance for 3 models of instruction which we plan to offer to our families. A full face-to-face model, a full distanc...ou feel would be most effective for our community?

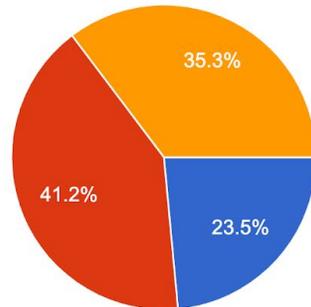
34 responses



- A model where we switch between group A and Group B every day. Something like this...
- A model where we we have the same students at least 2 days in a row with Wednesday as the flex day. We would...
- A model where we we have the same students at least 2 days in a row with...
- A model where we switch between groups every 5 days. Something like t...

What is your level of concern for returning to school?

34 responses

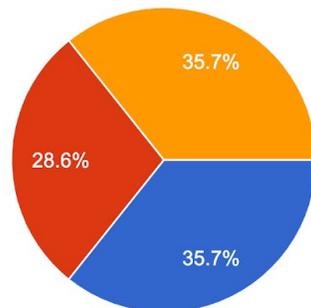


- I am not concerned if all members of our community maintain a level of cleanliness and social distancing
- I have some concerns, but am ready to return
- I have a real concern. Please list these concerns in the comments section at the end of the survey

For staff with children who attend our school

What model of instruction do you prefer for your children?

14 responses



- A full distance learning model where your child/children remain at home
- A hybrid model where your child/children come to school only certain days and receive distance learning other days
- A full in-school model

5. **How does COVID-19 spread?** COVID-19 is thought to spread primarily from person to person, through close contact and respiratory droplets, which are inhaled. While it is possible to get COVID-19 by touching a surface and then touching your face, this is not thought to be a primary means of contracting the illness.

6. **How do we minimize the exposure?** Exposure risk is based on several factors including frequency of exposure, distance between people, and the healthy of each person. As HDMS Staff, the goal is to minimize the exposure risk using the following practices:

- Avoid people who are ill
- Cover coughs/sneezes with tissue or elbow
- Wash hands often and thoroughly
- Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces
- Avoid close contact (6ft) of others

- Cover mouth and nose with a face covering
7. **Staff Health Concerns:** Staff members who are at increased risk need to remain vigilant including those over 60 years, those with existing medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, immunological issues, and pregnancy.
- Stay home if you are sick
 - Remain socially distant
 - Wear face coverings
 - Participate in safety trainings through the American Red Cross (Psychological First Aid) and Washoe County Health District
 - Isolate employees who are experiencing symptoms
 - Plan regular safety meetings with staff to review status and potential changes to the overall health of the school

EVERY HDMS EMPLOYEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIVELY PROTECTING THEMSELVES, FELLOW EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS, VISITORS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

8. **Physical Campus:** Limiting exposure to COVID-19 in the physical environment is a top priority. HDMS will do the following to maintain an a physically safe environment:
- Limit the number of students in the building at one time to 60%
 - Post proper signage to guide students, staff, and visitors in following safety and health guidelines
 - Stagger arrival, dismissal, lunch, recess, and staff break times.
 - Ensure hand sanitizers are available and hand washing stations are accessible and fully stocked with soap, running water, paper towels, and trash receptacles.
 - Ensure face coverings are available and used by all staff.
 - Provide tissues, trash receptacles, and hand sanitizer as appropriate
 - Remain socially distant, especially in places where lines may form
 - Identify clutter that can be removed to improve cleanability of workspaces
 - Maintain routine housekeeping, including disinfecting of surfaces and equipment with approved cleaning supplies, with special attention to high traffic areas and surfaces (entryways, doors, light switches, bathrooms, etc)
9. **Staff in the Physical Campus:** Only HDMS Staff or Independent Contractors will be allowed into the physical building.
- Self-screening every morning, including evaluating overall health and taking temperature if possible
 - If you feel ill or have symptoms of illness (fever, acute cough, or shortness of breath), do not come to school/work. Notify your supervisor immediately.
 - If you are well but have contact with (been close for more than 15 minutes) with someone who is suspected of or testing positive for COVID-19, notify your supervisor immediately and seek further guidance

- Designated door for staff entrance and exit
- Temperature checks as needed
- Enhanced personal hygiene with frequent hand washing
- Face masks must be worn inside unless you are working alone in your work space
- Staggered breaks and lunch times
- Groups of more than 10 people will be expected to disperse

10. Staff Planning Your Space/Classroom:

- Reduce the number of surfaces touched by multiple people
- Think of the things you touch
- Think of the things your visitors/students touch
- Drinking fountains should not be used/ encourage refillable water bottles
- Identify clutter that can be removed to improve cleanability of workspaces
- Clean and disinfect surfaces daily
- Open doors for additional ventilation when available
- Develop a plan to clean and disinfect throughout the school day

11. Students on Campus: Students who are at increased risk need to remain vigilant including those with existing medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and immunological issues.

- Stay home if you are sick
- Temperature checks prior to entering the building
- Remain socially distant
- Wear face coverings as mandated by the state and HDMS Board of Directors
- Ensure face coverings are available if needed and worn by students as mandated
- Face coverings can be removed when eating, drinking, and while at recess if social distancing guidelines are enforced
- Students who are experiencing symptoms will be isolated in the designated "Clinic Area"
- Classroom teachers will conduct a first day "health and safety" meeting with all students to ensure all are aware of expectations
- Classroom teachers will have regular meetings with students to review status and potential changes to the health and safety plan
- Any student who is quarantined on the advice of local public health officials receives access to distance education

EVERY HDMS STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIVELY PROTECTING THEMSELVES, FELLOW STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

12. **Parents/Visitors:**

- A designated waiting area will be established at each building site which is separate from where students and staff will be
- Face coverings must be worn while on school property by all visitors
- Parents will receive a “Weekly Newsletter” in both English and Spanish which provides general updates
- HDMS will use Infinite Campus as a way to communicate with parents and track student attendance
- HDMS will use online platforms such as Infinite Campus, Transparent Classroom, emails, Zoom, and/or Google Classroom to communicate with families
- HDMS will communicate with families through Blackboard Connect texts and phone calls

EVERY HDMS VISITOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIVELY PROTECTING THEMSELVES, FELLOW VISITORS, STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

13. **Montessori Mission and Vision:** High Desert Montessori will continue to embrace the mission and vision of the school as we head into our 18th year. We will uphold the highest of Montessori standards set forth by the Association of Montessori Internationale (AMI) and American Montessori Society (AMS) as well as continue to partner with the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector by focusing on the following 5 Essential Elements:

1. Montessori-prepared adults
2. The prepared environment
3. Leadership and organizational development
4. Family engagement
5. Assessment

14. **Delivery of Instruction:** High Desert Montessori Charter School will continue to plan and prepare lessons embedded in Montessori focused pedagogy, curriculum, and principles. HDMS does not have the physical space to provide an In-Person model to all students while following the Phase 2 directives. Classrooms and other spaces will allow for up to 60% capacity within the physical building. HDMS will work with families to offer them the following options at all levels of instruction:

- **Option A: In-Person Instruction-** An In-Person Learning Model is when enrolled students attend school Monday through Friday receiving all instruction within the school. The In-Person model requires social distancing, use of Personal Protective Equipment, restrictions to close contact activities, enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols, and screening protocols. Preference would be given to students on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), English Language (EL) Learners, Children in Transition (CIT), Foster Care, and Gifted & Talented.

- **Option B: Hybrid-** A Hybrid Model is when enrolled students attend school in an “A/B Rotation Schedule” format with approximately half of their instruction to be In-Person and half with Distance Learning. When students are receiving “In Person” instruction either 2 or 3 days a week, it requires social distancing, use of Personal Protective Equipment, restrictions to close contact activities, enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols, and screening protocols. Distance Learning instruction will be supported by a HDMS Certified Teacher using a standards-based online platform. Students will require a device and access to the internet. Students who need a laptop will be provided with one from the school on a loaner basis.

- **Option C: Distance Learning-** A Distance Learning Model is when an enrolled student receives all instruction in an online format with a HDMS Certified Teacher using a standards-based online platform. Students will require a device and access to the internet. Students who need a laptop will be provided with one from the school on a loaner basis.

The use of Distance Learning for students will be required in the event of a student or groups of students is excluded in consultation with the Washoe County Health District, or if HDMS, WCSD, or the Governor directs us to shut down due to an outbreak.

15. COVID-19 Outbreak Guidelines:

- Assessed on a case by case basis at the school level
- Continued communication and guidance from the Washoe County Health District
- Continued communication and guidance from our sponsor Washoe County School District
- Continued communication and guidance from the Nevada Department of Education
- Continued directives from Governor Sisolak regarding Phased reopening and closures

16. HDMS 20-21 School Calendar: HDMS recommends to have the Department of Education authorize an additional 5 days of professional development on August 10th through August 14th, with students in grades PK and 1st-8th returning to school on August 17th, including the week of August 17th -21st for kindergarten assessment, with kindergarten instruction beginning on August 24th, and the flexible use of the two weeks of spring break should the school experience a COVID-19 related shutdown resulting in a need to make up additional instructional time.

17. Professional Development Plan: These are the anticipated teacher and staff training and tasks to be completed during the weeks of August 4-7 and 10-14.

August 4-7: Classroom setup, American Red Cross Psychological First Aid Training, HDMS Conflict Resolution Training, Epi Pen Training, Child Protective Services

(Mandated Reporters) and Bullying Training, Washoe County Health District Safety Training

August 10-14: Online platform trainings include Freckle, Khan Academy, Transparent Classroom, Infinite Campus, Google Classroom, curriculum planning for in-person and online formats, Child Study through the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector

August 17-21: School begins for PreK and grades 1-8. Kindergarten assessments this week.

August 24: Kindergarten begins

18. **Face Coverings:** Consistent with the Governor's Directive 024, the use of face coverings for staff members, visitors, and students aged 10 and above, while on HDMS buildings and properties, is required. There are medical exemptions and exceptions for children 9 years of age and younger. HDMS is requiring the use of face coverings for students 9 years of age and younger. Face coverings do not need to be worn when eating, drinking, and during outdoor recess activities when social distancing is enforced.

Supporting Resources:

- *Nevada Department of Education: Guidance for Path Forward Programs*
- *Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings*
- *National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector: Looking Ahead Essential Elements Recommendations*
- *Center for Disease Control: Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool*
- *Nevada Department of Education Certification for Path Forward Programs of Distance Education*
- *Nevada Department of Education Request for Calendar Adjustment Document*
- *Nevada Department of Education Request for Additional Professional Development Days Document*