



7/17/2020

*Dear Parents,*

*Welcome to the Oneonta Montessori family! As we venture out this year into the “new normal” we stand fast in our commitment to our families and can’t wait to get this year started. We are offering two learning models for both, our preschool as well as our elementary programs; Onsite and Online. Parents must choose the model that best suits their family; a hybrid of combining both is not available. We are working diligently towards completing a comprehensive plan that will ensure that all children continue to receive an optimum education tailored for success in meeting all curriculum standards. Please see attached flier for details.*

*We are under the jurisdiction of LACDPH and must abide by their health orders. As per the newly released information issued by the Governor as of today, 7/17/2020, Reopening for K- 12 Schools for onsite education will depend on LA County being off the Covid -19 monitoring watch list for a duration of 14 consecutive days. Therefore, by August 10<sup>th</sup>, if LA County is not off the watch list, we will start the school year solely with Online learning for K- 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We will add the onsite learning model as soon as LA County gets off the watch list and fulfills the 14 day requirement. We will send out a survey on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, asking parents to pick their choice of learning for fall as we are getting ready for operating both models concurrently. Once given the go ahead to allow for Onsite education, we will welcome students who have picked the onsite learning model back to school.*

*We have already begun implementing all safety precautions for our summer camp program using the state’s CDPH “Covid-19 Industry Guidance; schools and school based programs” course of action as well as requirements of Ca State Social Services Dept, and will continue to do so without compromise. We have gone above and beyond what is recommended to keep our students and teachers healthy and safe during this Covid-19 pandemic. Daily temperature checks & masks for staff and students, reconfigurations of classrooms, limited class sizes, limiting access to campus to only staff and students, sanitizing stations installed throughout the school, and continuous disinfecting of high touch areas throughout the day are a few of the changes we have made to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all. A full set of guidelines is on the home page on our website at [www.oneontamontessori.com](http://www.oneontamontessori.com) under Reopening of Preschool & Elementary as well as in the Reopening Plan 2020 flier. All precautions will be implemented without compromise, but please understand that even as we do our best to protect the health and welfare of everyone, eliminating the risk entirely is beyond our control. We ask that families please cooperate by understanding our immense undertaking and commit to following the guidelines we have established. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding!*

*We reopened our campus for summer camp on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, and have been implementing these guidelines with great success. Our students have embraced the ‘new normal’ and proved to be troopers! Even the littlest ones are cognizant of the social distancing spots on the floor and tables, keeping their*

*masks on the whole day and happily engaging in singing the ABC song while washing their hands every half hour throughout the day. Please check out Summer Camp 2020 pictures on our website.*

*We know that this carefully crafted plan is subject to change at a moment's notice, but rest assured, we'll be ready for both learning models come fall. We want to thank and congratulate all of you, our parents, for wearing your teacher hats and working alongside us to complete the last school year. Together we were successful in helping our students to realize the goals set for them. With more proficient standards in place this fall, we are more than confident in our ability to do so again & know that we can count on you too!*

*Children 2, 3 & 4 years old fall under the Child Care Services category; deemed an essential service. At Oneonta we classify these children as preschool, Prekindergarten and Transition Kindergarten. These children may attend onsite even if we are mandated to shut down onsite learning for K- 6<sup>th</sup> grade.*

*We realize that you place great value on your child's education and are honored that you have chosen Oneonta to educate and nurture your child. It is a great privilege that you have imparted to us; we want to thank you and work side by side with you in helping your child to realize his/her full potential. We share your high expectations, hopes, and dreams and are confident that together we can contribute to your child's future success! For over 30 years Oneonta has been dedicated to providing an enriching environment achieved by staying true to the Montessori philosophy, the child is always the central figure in the classroom; respect for the child is a tenet of the Montessori Method and is uncompromised at Oneonta. Our teachers are trained and certified in the Montessori Method of teaching. They motivate and encourage growth by insightfully following the child's lead. The self-teaching and self-correcting materials lessen the intrusiveness of the teacher and allow for imaginative exploration. The materials are intrinsic to the Montessori classroom and enhance the learning experience; children are stimulated and are able to reinforce their own knowledge by using the materials to teach their peers. "Children teach children" is integral to the Montessori principals of: leadership, strong friendships and a profound sense of belonging, which are cultivated at Oneonta Montessori.*

*Our preschool not only defines a high quality early childhood education program; it raises the standard by continually evolving to meet the needs of each individual child. All our teachers are committed early childhood educators, instilling in all our little ones a sense of awareness and responsiveness in a happy and safe environment.*

*In the elementary classrooms, we prepare our students for transitioning into a traditional school setting by incorporating text books, seat work, weekly quizzes, spelling tests and a grading system. Proficiency results of the National Standardized testing (Terra Nova 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) are a testament to our high expectations and the hard work of our students. While staying true to the Montessori philosophy, our elementary Math and Language curriculum supports the California Common Core standards. Incorporating our Montessori subjects like History, Geography, Botany, Zoology, and Geometry, allows our students to be curious and truly understand the world around them.*

*In an effort to keep Oneonta a safe, healthy and uncompromised learning environment we are suspending all Extracurricular Activities such as Dance, Hapkido, Tennis, Soccer and Yoga until*

*further notice. We are hopeful that once we are given clearance to relax the Covid-19 guidelines these classes will resume.*

*We are committed to providing a satisfying and rewarding partnership with you. Your ideas and questions are valuable to us so please feel free to keep the lines of communication open. We anticipate a very successful and productive experience for all our students as we begin our “new normal” educational journey together for the 2020/2021 School Year!*

*Yours truly,  
Fiona Emersley  
Director*

*Please make sure to fill out the survey that will be sent out on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, regarding your family’s decision for choice of learning for fall. Thank You*