



The Montessori Elementary & Middle School

February 24, 2021

Dear TMEEMS/Casita families,

First, let us say we hope you and your family are safe and healthy as you read this letter. We recognize and respect the challenges that each family is facing with the changes that we all unexpectedly faced with the pandemic and quarantine. After a lot of work and discussion with our teachers, staff, and Governance Council, we have decided to maintain student and staff safety by continuing our remote learning model for all grades and levels with the exception of 8th grade and students with IEP'S. We will follow the Hybrid model for 8th grade, with in-person learning being strictly voluntary for those students. Students with IEP's will be on a modified in-person schedule. More information will be sent to the 8th grade parents and families with students with IEP's soon.

Below are the main reasons we have chosen this approach.

- Opening to full Hybrid for all students would require us to change the instructor of many of the student's classes.
- Opening to full Hybrid would overwhelmingly disrupt the continuity of instruction for students and staff.
- We have many staff members that meet the CDC's at-risk criteria and we feel it is not safe to bring them back.
- Most of our staff have not received their Covid-19 vaccination yet.
- We feel we can manage the impact of the Covid-19 virus for students and staff by limiting in-person learning to 8th graders and students with IEP's.

We will continue our present model of instruction for all grades except 8th and will continue to review parameters for returning to in-person as conditions change.

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last year. We are extremely appreciative of our students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators for their positivity, flexibility and resilience during these trying times.

Mary Jane Besante

Stan Albrycht