

The Montessori Connection

December 9, 2020



www.TMESNM.com

Attendance

Even though we are not physically on campus, attendance is still required by the state. Please email Ms. Brenda bjohnson@tmesnm.com or call the office 796-0149 before 10:00 AM so your student has an excused absence. Many families are letting the teachers know however please remember that our office needs to know too. If your student will be late for class please let Ms. Brenda know what time they will be in class so we can notate that too. (Just like signing in late when you arrive at school.) If you have any questions Ms. Brenda is happy to help in any way.



Quick Tip

Our teachers have office hours to help their students and families with online learning! Visit your child's Google Classroom page to learn more about office hours or email your child's teacher directly.

Letter from our Admin Regarding Re-Opening

Excerpt from a letter emailed on 12/2/20:

Dear TMEMS/Casita families, we would like to thank you all for all your support over the last 9 months of this pandemic. The first semester of the 2020-2021 school year has presented many challenges to all our TMEMS community. TMEMS teachers have worked hard implementing our distance learning plans for every level and parents have done an incredible job supporting their children, and our teachers, through it all. On behalf of our entire staff: Great job TMEMS & Casita and thank you! We can appreciate and respect the challenges that each family is facing with the changes that we all unexpectedly faced,

starting in March, with the pandemic and quarantine. We are touched with the personal stories families shared with us over the past 9 months. Each family's situation is unique and their challenges and fears are too. With these individual challenges in mind and thinking forward to the continuation of the 2020-2021 school year, our goal is to provide continuous, consistent and high quality educational opportunities for our TMEMS/Casita families that respect the safety and health of all families, students and staff. With this goal in mind, our plan was to offer online and in-school options for TMEMS/Casita families starting in January of 2021. Unfortunately we have had to change our plan once again for in-person on-site learning. Currently we are planning to offer on-site learning beginning in March of 2021.

Visit the 'News' tab on TMESNM.com to read the full letter.

DID YOU KNOW? *There's an app for that!*

With Google Classroom being used at all levels at our school, we wanted to share a little helpful tip... there's an app for that! Look in your device's app store for the Google Classroom app. Simply download the app, sign in under your child's Google Classroom sign in info (tmesnm.com email and password- same as their Chromebook sign-in info) and it will load in their Google Classroom and send you notifications when their teacher adds something new! It is a quick and easy way to help your child stay on track during the distance learning period. You can add multiple accounts to the app so you can switch back and forth between accounts easily.

The BEST homemade play dough ever!

Are your kids missing the awesome play dough they use at school? Well here is the recipe from www.iheartnaptime.net! This is a great way to keep kids busy during cold winter months.

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 2 Tablespoons of vegetable oil (coconut oil works too)
- Food coloring, optional
- Quart sized bags

Stir together the flour, salt and cream of tartar in a large pot. Next add the water and oil. If you're only making one color, add in the color now as well.



Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue stirring until the dough has thickened and begins to form into a ball. Remove from heat and then place inside a gallon sized bag or onto wax paper. Allow to cool slightly and then knead until smooth. If you're adding colors after, divide the dough into balls (for how many colors you want) and then add the dough into the quart sized bags. Start with about 5 drops of color and add more to brighten it. Knead the dough, while inside the bag so it doesn't stain your hands. Once it's all mixed together you're ready to PLAY.

Store the play dough inside the bags once done to keep soft. Keeps for up to 3 months.

We ♥ ART!



We are proud of our creative students and love to feature their art! If you would like to see your TMEMS/Casita student's art included in our newsletters, please send an email to Ms MJ at msams@tmesnm.com with a picture of the art piece and the artist's name we can include in a future Montessori Connection issue. Please make sure the file is in jpeg format. We look forward to seeing the beautiful art our student's are creating!

Community Resources

Free Food

APS Grab and Go Meals

<https://www.aps.edu/schools/aps-reentry-plan/reentry-plan-news/grab-and-go-meals>

COVID info

Info from the State of NM regarding COVID-19

<https://www.newmexico.gov/>

CDC

Schools and Child Care Programs

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

NM Health

A Healthier New Mexico

<https://www.nmhealth.org/>

NM PED

NM Public Education Department info on COVID-19

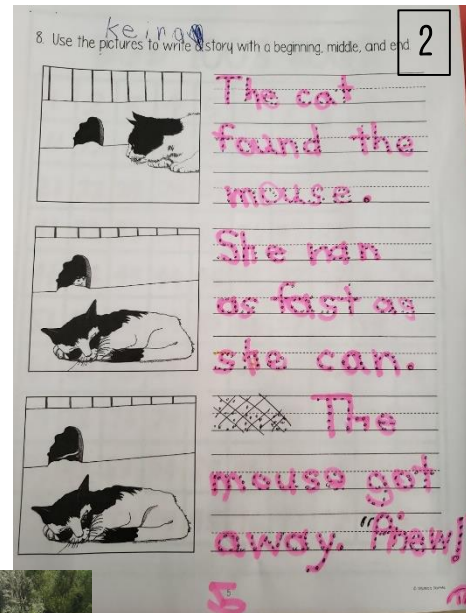
<https://webnewped.state.nm.us/bureaus/safe-healthy-schools/covid-19-coronavirus/>

We hope you find these community resources helpful. Please contact our Administration if we can help support your family too.

3-6 Level Update

Happy December! It's hard to believe we are half way through the year! We love seeing the happy, smiling faces of our students every day and appreciate the dedication it takes from you, as parents and guardians, during these extraordinary times. We enjoy hearing the sweet (and sometimes hysterical) stories the students bring to the class and seeing "lightbulb" moments as they learn new material. We recently completed assessments and we were encouraged to see the student's progress in letter and sight word recognition, as well as phonemic awareness; all are so important for reading readiness! Students are also making wonderful progress in number recognition. When we return from winter break, we will continue our letter study, continue to build on early literacy skills, and continue to work on number sense and operations in math. We are looking forward to expanding our cultural lessons in our whole group community zooms. Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

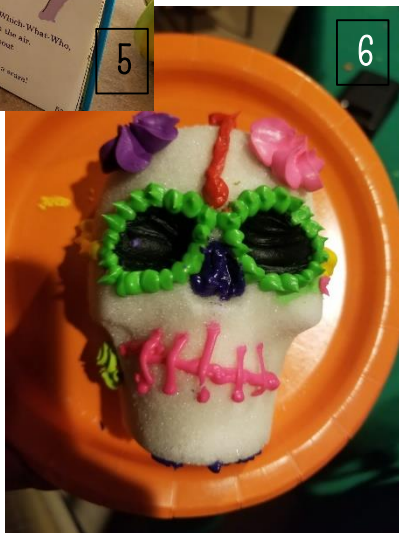
Ms. Jill, Ms. Melody, Ms. Sharon, Ms. Cindy, Ms. Candace, Ms. Alicia, Ms. Joy and Ms. Piper



Artwork by: (left to right, top to bottom)

- 1) Adalyssa Redhouse
- 2) Keira Featherstone
- 3) Max Oakey
- 4) Adalyssa Redhouse
- 5) Aspen Zulevi

6-9 Level Update

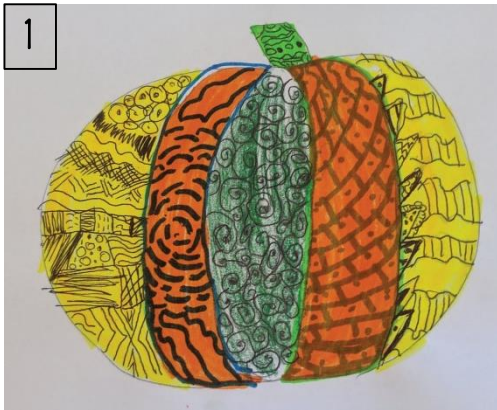


The 6-9 Level has developed a Montessori inspired remote learning program. Our Google Classrooms mimic the classroom environments and give students continued practice of required concepts to keep them moving forward. Our students use Montessori hands on materials as well as computer based programs. We are still following our Montessori and Standards based scope and sequence. Currently, we are learning about winter holidays and celebrations from around the world. Practical Life is also an important component of the at home "daily work cycle", time management and meaningful work contributing to their home environment. We are very hopeful and excited about our program and the kids' response; we are seeing such gains in their reading fluency among other concepts. We are always reflecting and adapting our program to benefit our community. Thank you for all of your hard work and support. We truly appreciate being a part of your child's growth. Be well!

Artwork by: (left to right, top to bottom)

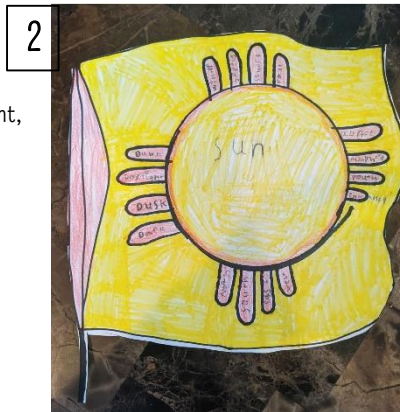
- 1) Charlotte Shaw-Dunn
- 2) Alyosha Elkin
- 3) Sophia Rodriguez
- 4) Ava Medina
- 5) Noah Williams
- 6) Andres Meneses-Ortega

9-11 Level Update



Artwork by: (left to right,
top to bottom)

- 1) Sophie Ochoa
- 2) Nicolas Certain
- 3) Hawk Martin
- 4) Elena Romero



The 9-11 level has had a semester of growth. The students have truly risen to make a strong academic and social community, even in the online environment. 9-11 students have become proficient in many programs on the computer, and all the technological skills that it takes to access information, submit and revise assignments, and create slideshows, in addition to sharing their screens. We are currently using Freckle and learning the ins and outs of the program. Our curriculum has spanned topics like fractions, volume, writing a narrative story, figurative language, and lots of Random Acts of Kindness lessons. We have had wonderful 9-11 social lunches, virtual field trips, and sharing our assignments and accomplishments. We enjoy being a part of the student's self-discovery as much as we enjoy facilitating their academic growth. Working with the students and observing their interactions warms our hearts. They are a true example of a bright and strong future!



Middle School Update



Artwork by: Ava
Greenwood, 6th grade

This semester has been a busy one for TMMS! Our students have learned what it takes to be successful as a student online and are making great gains in their classes and abilities as students. Among their academic themes, students have been focusing on developing strategies to maintain their physical activity level and to monitor their social/emotional health during a year of challenge. Our theme for this semester has been "Identity." In seventh grade, students are learning about what it means to be human as they study a wide range of concepts of freedom, choice and sacrifice. Eighth grade students have been learning about themselves, their interests and their community as they research possible internship opportunities and write professional quality letters and resumes. In Independent Study, students are exploring themes around imagination and overcoming hate in Humanities. Students have challenged themselves artistically while learning about elements of art, delving into digital art, and having their artwork included in our online classrooms. In middle school Science, students have taken ownership of the principles of chemistry and biology through project-based learning. In the first semester of the 2020 school year, students explored topics in science via two large, unit culminating and research-based projects. They were led through experimentation and literature to research the principles of science and the applications of information to develop a deeper understanding of the state standards. Mathematically, students are learning how to use technology to support their learning and are challenging themselves to study probability (7th), understand linear equations (8th), and evaluating variables (6th) while some students are choosing to pursue their passion for math in an Advanced Math class. Despite the challenges we have faced in being online, students have rallied and used their effort and work to donate much needed supplies to students through UNICEF's Trick-or-Treat challenge. We have an amazing body of students and wonderful teachers! Go TMMS!

Middle School Artwork

Artwork by: (left to right, top to bottom)
1) Surraya White
2) Gedly Jaramillo
3) Sydney Duval
4) Josephine Cash
5) Paxton DuBois
6) Emmy Soto

