

August 2020- What to Expect Updates in Red

The Waldorf School of Princeton's COVID-19 policies and procedures in this document are developed with the health of the entire school community in mind. This is a living document and may be adapted and modified as needed per recommendations and guidelines from local and state health departments and the CDC.

A Return to Campus. What to Expect:

- We are planning to be outside as much as possible for our 2020-2021 school year, utilizing our 20+ acres of campus, including outdoor learning spaces designed for classroom instruction.
- We will be reducing congestion on campus and creating new arrival and dismissal procedures, during this time.
 - Each class will have an assigned outdoor classroom location as well as an assigned door to enter and exit the school building.
 - For the health and safety of those on campus, parents and visitors will not be allowed into school buildings unless necessary and/or with permission.
 - There will be no front desk manager for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents and visitors must call the school to plan for campus and/or building access.
 - Our campus will be for faculty/staff/student use only, and the campus will not be available to the community outside of school hours so that we can maintain cleaning and sanitizing standards.
- There will be some changes to the structure of the school day schedule for students
 - The faculty may increase numbers of or duration of recess periods and assign outdoor spaces for individual classes.
 - There will be planned bathroom breaks and handwashing breaks.
 - Special area subject teachers will see students on a rotating A/B schedule at the onset of the school year.
- Classes will be treated as separate “cohorts.”
 - Class schedules will be staggered, classes will have separate entrances and exits, etc.
 - Maximum enrollment in each class will be limited to maintain small class size.
 - Lower grades will be capped at 12 students per class.
 - Middle school grades may range from 12 to 18, as an upper limit.
 - The Afterschool Program is suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.
- All members of the Waldorf School of Princeton community and any visitors to the campus must wear an appropriate face covering.
- The school community will practice increased attention to handwashing, hygienic practices, and cleaning/disinfecting throughout the day.
- Snacks and lunches for all children (EC through Grade School) will be packed and sent from home each day.

- There will be no shared, class snacks this year.
- There will be no pizza day for the Grade School students.

Physical preparations on the campus:

- The school is creating intentional outdoor learning spaces.
- Individual bins will be assigned for student belongings.
 - We are reducing/eliminating shareable items and materials as much as possible.
- If needing to be indoors, every effort will be made to maintain appropriate physical distancing and healthy air quality.
 - Face coverings are required indoors, at all times.
 - Physical distancing recommendations will be utilized.
 - Additional equipment has been installed in classrooms for improvement of air flow and air purification.
- The health office has been upgraded with a specific COVID-19 isolation and assessment area, as well as enhancements to other treatment areas.

Early Childhood Considerations:

- The EC classes will be held outdoors for almost the entirety of their day.
 - Long periods of playing in and learning with and through nature have always been a hallmark of our Waldorf Early Childhood program.
 - Teachers will advise parents about appropriate clothing and gear for the outdoor learning experience in all seasons.
- This year, snacks (and lunches, if in the full-day program) must be prepared at home and sent to school with students, each day.
- Class sizes are smaller, and an assistant teacher may be present to help our youngest students with bathrooming, handwashing, meal times, etc.
 - Depending on the age of the children in the class, length of day, and number of assistants, class enrollment may range from 6 students in our youngest age-group to 12 students in the oldest group.
- Teachers and assistants will model our face-covering policy and will help our little ones to gain comfort and facility with wearing masks and face-coverings, as well as building good habits of hygiene (handwashing, etc), similar to the self-care skills that have always been a part of the program.
- Students may be indoors for socially-distanced meal times, napping/resting periods (full-day students), and bathroom breaks.
 - Unless necessary, the goal is for students to eat outside.
 - Face-coverings must be worn indoors at all times, when students are not eating/drinking or napping.
 - Napping/Resting Time (for full-day students)
 - The school will provide a nap mat for each child during the resting period that will be stored in a child's individual, sealed bin.
 - Linens, pillows, pillowcases, etc. must be provided from home and will also be stored in the student's individual, sealed bin.

- At the end of the week, mats and linens will be sent home for laundering.
 - Resting children will be spaced apart and situated head-to-toe.
- Toys and play items will be limited to only those that can be easily cleaned.

Face Coverings at The Waldorf School of Princeton:

The Waldorf School of Princeton is committed to preventing the spread of coronavirus among our students, families, and staff, to the best of our ability and keeping our school open for on-campus learning as long as possible. To attempt to meet these goals for our school, WSP will follow current CDC and state health guidelines promoting the use of face coverings in public spaces and places where people gather, both indoors and in outdoor locations if not able to physically distance greater than 6 feet. With respect for the health and safety of all members in our community, WSP requires everyone to wear a mask while on campus, unless under the age of 2 years of age. [Click HERE](#) for our Waldorf School of Princeton Mask Policy.

General guidelines for face coverings at Waldorf School of Princeton:

- All face coverings must provide adequate barrier protection and must fit to properly cover the nose, mouth, and chin so as to prevent the spread of illness.
- Face coverings and masks must follow our dress code as described in the Community Handbook (i.e. avoiding media images and characters, messages, commercial and/or athletic team logos, as well as distracting designs or patterns).
- Faculty and staff will wear face coverings throughout the day.
- Students will wear face coverings at all times, unless they are appropriately distanced outside, and after their teachers give directions that masks may be lowered or taken off for a period of time.
- Parents and visitors to the campus must also wear an appropriate face covering at all times on campus.
- Those with disabilities and other medical concerns should contact their healthcare providers and our nursing staff for recommendations regarding alternative face-covering options.
- Parents should provide extra face coverings for their children in case of excessive moisture build-up, discomfort, soiling, loss or mishap, both in their daily bags as well as with their children's emergency change of clothes.
 - If a child is without a face covering and a disposable mask must be distributed more than twice, parents will be notified about the possibility of invoicing for replacement costs.
- Refusal to wear a face covering may result in dismissal from campus and could lead to further disciplinary action.

Daily Health Screenings:

- In accordance with New Jersey's reopening guidelines for schools, we will be conducting daily health screenings for faculty, staff, and students.

- Screening for COVID-19 symptoms may help our community isolate potential illness, prevent possible spread of infection, and assists school leadership in making informed decisions and determine further action for the wellbeing of our entire school community.
- Faculty and staff will complete a daily health assessment as well
- Parents will complete a daily health assessment for their enrolled child/children before arriving on campus.
- The data from the health assessments will be reviewed by our nursing staff each day.
- The information gathered from these assessments will be handled with confidentiality, as with all school health forms and information.
- Knowingly falsifying information on this form may result in immediate dismissal from the school.

Symptoms:

- Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Fever (100 degrees F or greater)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle/Body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore Throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Fatigue/Lethargy
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Behavior that indicates a child is not feeling well, such as extreme fussiness
- All members of the school community (faculty, staff, students and families) should not come to school if he/she/they OR any members of his/her/their household...
 - Exhibits ONE of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell
 - Exhibits TWO of the following symptoms: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, behavior that shows child is not feeling well/extreme fussiness
 - Have been in contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19
- Any student or staff member showing symptoms of COVID-19 as described in the bullet point above will be sent home from school along with anyone from his/her/their household in the school (even if the other members of the household do not show any COVID-19 symptoms).
- A medical note from your healthcare provider is required in order to return to school if meeting the criteria above.

- **If a child does not meet the above COVID-19 symptom criteria (e.g., just has a fever), then the usual school exclusion for illness applies (e.g., fever free for 24 hours without a fever-reducing medicine).**
- In the event of a suspected COVID-19 infection among staff or students, the school will contact the Montgomery Township Department of Health to determine the next steps. Relevant information for contact tracing may have to be shared with the Montgomery Township Department of Health.
- **For more information regarding Exclusion for Illness and Return to School protocols, please reference COVID-19 section of the [Community Handbook](#) and/or the separate document clarifying Illnesses and Return to School on the [COVID-19 resource page](#).**

For handling all COVID-19-related illness and protocol, the school will follow procedures as outlined below from the State Health Department:

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_guidance_reopening_childcare.pdf

In the Event of a Campus Closure:

- Classes will transition to Distance Learning using Google Classroom
 - Early Childhood
 - Teachers will prepare lessons and materials for up to 2 weeks of distance learning.
 - After 2 continuous weeks, if campus remains closed, extension days will be added to the program's calendar, as needed, through July 23rd.
 - Grade School
 - Classroom teachers will offer structured daily lessons, activities, and assignments according to their grade-level curriculum and needs, via the virtual classroom.
 - Special subject area teachers will provide instruction through live and/or interactive virtual lessons and assignments.
 - Plays and performances may be virtual.