



New Discoveries

Montessori Academy

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Dear NDMA Family,

I am going to limit today's letter to the topic of *Distance Learning*. If you are reading this while the sun is still shining, please step outside and admire the lovely blue sky. I've only done that from my desk today, but I plan to go outside and enjoy both the sunshine and the blue sky as soon as I hit "send" for this letter.

Regarding *Distance Learning*, let me begin by encouraging you to take a deep breath. I am going to venture a guess that some of you were at least marginally overwhelmed as you began to go through the learning materials you received today. I know for a fact that some of you with more than one school-age child, were profoundly overwhelmed. For that I am sorry.

In order to help you feel better about your role as it relates to *Distance Learning*, I offer the following suggestions for you to consider:

- As a rule of thumb, your child/ren should be doing no more than two hours of work per day.
- We are not expecting you to be your child's/ren's Teacher. You are his/her parent, protector, and advocate.
- Your child's/ren's Teachers are still your child's/ren's Teachers. They are here to help facilitate *Distance Learning* to the extent it is practical.



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- Your primary responsibilities relative to the *Distance Learning* are:
 - Make sure your child/ren have a place to work and a method to keep their learning materials together.
 - Set some internal (home) deadlines for your child/ren to complete their work.
 - If your child's/ren's Teachers have scheduled *Zoom, Google Classroom, Google Hangout*, or other platform, make sure your children are logging in.
 - If your child/ren have questions, please facilitate your child/ren contacting their teachers to ask questions. Every Teacher has established some option for you in this regard.

I will be meeting with Teachers tomorrow to discuss what they can do to diminish your fears and frustrations regarding the volume of work that was delivered today. For the most part, we over planned and provided you with more than enough work for a single week of *Distance Learning*.

I cannot express how grateful we are for your grace during this challenging time. Obviously, we are not going to get everything right the first or second time. We are going to keep working on it, though, with the goal of making it better every day.

Sincerely,

Dave Conrad
Executive Director