



January 1, 2025

RE: E-Learning Program Information for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dear NDMA Families,

To provide a more effective and predictable academic calendar, New Discoveries Montessori Academy will implement E-Learning days in place of making up school days due to inclement weather. While E-Learning cannot fully replicate a traditional school day, extending the school year into June has proven to be less effective for student learning. This approach also helps avoid mid-year calendar changes, making planning easier for both families and staff.

E-Learning Overview

- NDMA will utilize up to **five E-Learning days** per school year.
- If more than 5 snow days needed throughout the year, additional make-up days may be used in addition to these three E-Learning days.
- Students will complete assignments at home using **Blizzard Bags** provided in advance. (Check your child's backpack.)
- Technology will **not** be sent home as part of E-Learning.

Blizzard Bags & Attendance

Blizzard Bags include the necessary materials for E-Learning, such as:

- A **Choice Board** developed by the grade-level team
- Writing supplies
- Any additional materials needed for assignments

Blizzard Bags will be distributed whenever inclement weather is anticipated. If an E-Learning day does not occur immediately, students should keep their bags at home for future use. **Choice Boards** provide engaging, flexible learning activities in core subject areas, with both internet and non-internet options. Each subject area includes at least six activity choices, with each activity designed to take no more than **20 minutes**. E-Learning can be completed in as little as **90 minutes**. If multiple E-Learning days occur, activities can be repeated.

To accommodate different family needs, students will have **three school days** to complete their assigned work. This allows time for families to assist as needed and for

students to seek clarification. After the third day, teachers will report attendance based on completed and signed Choice Boards.

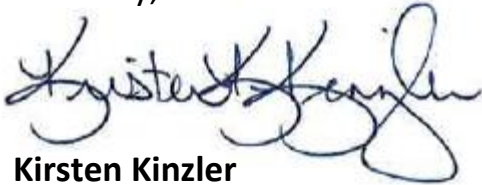
Teacher Availability

- During E-Learning days, teachers will be **available by phone and email** from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** to answer student and parent questions.

Family Responsibilities

E-Learning days count as **official instructional school days**, with activities designed for students to complete independently. **Parents are responsible** for ensuring students complete their Blizzard Bag activities within the three-day window. Families should communicate with teachers via email if they have any questions. Choice Boards offer both internet and non-internet options to accommodate various home environments. We appreciate your partnership in supporting student learning and maintaining a predictable school calendar. Please reach out with any questions regarding the E-Learning process.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Kinzler

Administrator, New Discoveries Montessori Academy