



**hoboken** **montessori** school  
inspiring lifelong learning

Primary 2020-2021  
Distance Learning Program

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Our deepest gratitude goes to the  
**Montessori School of Tokyo**  
for their creation of this Montessori school resource.  
It was an invaluable template for ours.

## Learning from A Montessori Perspective

When embarking on a period of learning from home, our aim is to create a Montessori-based framework that serves our students while supporting parents as we all adapt to a different daily routine. It is important to us that our children's activity during this time is enjoyable, thoughtful, challenging and rewarding.

Our goal is to work in collaboration with families to keep alive the culture of learning that is unique to Montessori and to provide families with support and activities that match the developmental needs and characteristics of each child in our community.

### How do we establish this at home?

The Montessori method is all about the process. While completion of work is important, it is our approach to it that makes all the difference. Learning is most effective when it is within a greater context. When we connect subjects and concepts, we establish meaning, which fuels motivation in students. Above all, we want children to feel connected to their learning, not to simply "complete assignments" while at home.

Learning, together with a sense of exploration, curiosity and discovery, results in deeper and more meaningful experiences for children. This instills a great sense of ownership and responsibility in the child.

The guidelines in this Handbook outline how Hoboken Montessori School's faculty, administration, and staff will support our families. It is important to us that we maintain our connectedness with our parents and families throughout. We will be in regular contact in a variety of ways and promise to maintain continual communication between teachers and families throughout this period.





## Primary Program Expectations



### Students may be expected to:

- Enjoy family life with developmentally appropriate contributions

### Parents are invited to:

- Remain mindful about your child's stress or worries during this time of change
- Monitor communication about your child from your teachers
- Initiate communication with teachers about questions, ideas, concerns, or feedback
- Communicate with teachers using their work emails
- Support your child's independence in daily life activities
- Be mindful of and allow children to continue periods of concentration
- Establish daily routines and expectations
- Provide opportunities for daily physical activity
- Try your best in adhering to the Distance Learning schedule and join the live sessions

### Primary Teachers will:

- Give guidance in setting up a daily routine
- Use Zoom and Seesaw to provide lessons through a Montessori appropriate approach.
- Welcome children to live daily circle, small group lessons, and enrichment classes via Zoom, in addition to One-on-One lessons
- Maintain our community connection by sharing songs, activities, games, lessons and conversation together in small group and large group sessions
- Share Menu Boards with suggestions for daily activities and materials geared specifically toward our students to encourage freedom of choice
- Provide regular live and pre-recorded videos giving lessons, reading popular books and performing our students' favorite songs and fingerplays
- Adapt and change our approach as necessary to meet the changing needs of our students, parents, and school community

# Primary Distance Learning Overview

At HMS we pride ourselves in the close connection we have with our students and their families. Our teachers and administrative teams are here to help in any way we can.

HMS recognizes the important role our Montessori manipulatives play in the growth and development of our students. To support this, the 20-21 Distance Learning Program will include some tangible teacher-made materials for our Primary students.

We will continue to prepare weekly activities and supplies that will support the child's distance learning education. These will include, but are not limited to, printable material to support the didactic, hands on, authentic materials in the classroom, printable materials that are needed for weekly lessons, and materials needed to create our themed art projects and science experiments. We understand it may be difficult to have the supplies necessary to complete some of the art and science experiments and we are here to help ease the transition to distance learning.

Our Primary students will be given comprehensive workbooks for the Distance Learning program that your child's teacher will incorporate into their weekly small group lessons. They will build on skills that are taught in the classroom, such as number and letter recognition, handwriting practice, word building, shape and name identification, as well as plant and animal life cycles and their appropriate nomenclature.

## Supplies and Materials

### Technology

- ❖ Seesaw, Zoom and YouTube

### Age Appropriate Workbooks and Worksheets

### Montessori Manipulatives

- ❖ Art Supplies, Science Supplies and Printable and/or tangible Math, Language and Practical Life Supplies

## Distance Learning Schedules

There will be differentiation between our Half Day and Full Day Primary students for the 20-21 Distance Learning program.

### Our Full Day Primary students will receive:

- Daily Live Morning Circle
- Daily Live Small Group Lessons
- Weekly Enrichment Sessions for Music, Art, Spanish, Movement and Food Prep
- Weekly Live Afternoon Story Time/Movement Session
- Weekly Live Afternoon Experiment Session
- Two Weekly Live One-on-One Sessions
- Monthly Menu Board and Companion Activities to support the child's Montessori education through freedom of choice. Teachers will follow up with their progress.
- Comprehensive workbooks to support our curricular lessons
- Assignments which can be checked by the teachers using the Seesaw platform to encourage accountability
- Pre-recorded videos for lessons and activities on our HMS YouTube Channel
- Art Supplies, Science Supplies and Printable and/or tangible Math, Language and Practical Life Supplies

*Our Kindergarten students will enjoy all of the above, plus the added benefit of a daily live afternoon read aloud from a chapter book, like The Magic Tree House. This will segue into their daily journal writing assignments. Additionally, our Kindergarten students will have daily assignments from their Singapore Math, Go Phonics Language and Phoenix Learning Science workbooks.*

### Our Half Day Primary students will receive:

- Daily Live Morning Circle
- Daily Live Small Group Lessons
- Weekly Enrichment Sessions for Music, Art, Spanish, Movement and Food Prep
- One Weekly Live One-on-One Session
- Monthly Menu Board and Companion Activities to support the child's Montessori education through freedom of choice
- Comprehensive workbooks to support our curricular lessons
- Assignments which can be checked by the teachers using the Seesaw platform to encourage accountability
- Pre-recorded videos for lessons and activities on our HMS YouTube Channel
- Art Supplies, Science Supplies and Printable and/or tangible Math, Language and Practical Life Supplies

# Activities for Primary at Home

## PROGRAM-SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- Children aged 3 to 6 thrive in environments that promote repetition, routine and the mastery of purposeful movement.
- Allow your child to choose their activities and give them an opportunity to engage in it for periods of time, without distractions.
- The key to a successful learning environment is order, access to tactile resources, space to explore, and meaningful activity. For the Primary child, work and play should be interchangeable—a natural, fun and exciting part of life. Play *is* the work of the child.

## PRACTICAL LIFE

Children aged 3 to 6 are often willing to help in the house chores. They continue to develop their ability to care for themselves and their environment. They take joy in their independence and achievement. Practical Life activities promote their ability to be involved in the daily life of the family. Here are a few suggestions:

### Ages 3 to 4:

- Meal or snack preparation: slicing vegetables, fruit, cheese, etc.
- Kitchen care: loading and unloading the dishwasher, washing dishes by hand, sweeping floors.
- Pet care (if you have a pet): walking, playing with, and grooming.
- Dust the leaves of plants with a soft cloth or dust the furniture around the house.
- Nature walks in the yard or about the neighborhood with a list of things to find.
- Walk the line by laying down masking tape lines throughout the house and then walk each line carefully.
- Art: coloring, painting and collage work.
- Cutting and gluing on paper—for example, find and cut all of the plant pictures in a magazine and then glue them into a collage.
- Laundry: match socks, fold washcloths, dish towels and hand towels.

### Ages 5 to 6: Any of the above plus:

- Cutting intrinsic shapes
- Handwork: sewing and weaving

## SENSORIAL

Children begin their exploration and understanding of the world through their senses. They are curious by nature and are easily attracted to things they can touch, smell, taste, look at, hear and manipulate. Here are a few suggestions for activities at home:

### Ages 3 to 4:

- Explore the home for two-dimensional shapes (rectangles, squares, circles, etc.).
- Explore the home for three-dimensional geometric objects (spheres, cylinders, cones, cubes, prisms).
- Explore the home for textures that are rough or smooth.
- Explore the home for matching colors.
- Explore sound by tapping on different objects (pot, glass, wooden cutting board, etc.) with different objects as well (tap with a metal spoon, then a wooden spoon).

### Ages 5 to 6:

- Explore spices and attempt to recognize them by scent.
- Compare the shapes of the various leaves found on houseplants.
- Draw pictures that include certain specified shapes (for instance, one circle and three rectangles, or one square and four triangles).
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## LANGUAGE

Primary teachers will provide Language lessons to all students via Zoom. Here are a few activities you can do at home:

### Ages 3 to 4:

- Sound games or “I-Spy”—for instance, find something that begins with the sound /s/.
- Beginning sound games
- Question games: Have a conversation using who/what/when/where/why questions.
- Sing new songs or songs in different languages.

### Ages 5 to 6:

- Write a letter to a friend or family member on a paper. Take a picture of it and send it to the person to whom it is written.
- Assist in writing a list of things to do for a day or a week.
- Write a story or a play and read aloud or act it out when it is finished.



## MATHEMATICS

Primary teachers will provide Math lessons to all students via Zoom. Here are a few activities you can do at home:

### Ages 3 to 4:

- Play scavenger hunt and ask your child to count the objects collected.
- Count objects (beans, pennies, etc.).
- Sort laundry.
- Sort cutlery.

### Ages 5 to 6:

- Hopscotch math—all operations can be done, just make your hopscotch go higher than 10
- Make simple patterns for your child to follow (ABAB, ABC, AABB)

### *When and how can I reach my child's teacher?*

Email remains the best way to contact a teacher. If you wish to speak to a teacher, please send your question/concern to [dl@hobokenmontessori.com](mailto:dl@hobokenmontessori.com). It will be directed to the appropriate teaching staff who are not reading emails during their work time with students. Please do not engage in any conversation with a teacher regarding your child's progress during the group Zoom sessions.

*“We discovered that education is not something which the **TEACHER** does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the **HUMAN** being.”*

*Dr. Maria Montessori*



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