**Yes, 2020 – 2021 will be a year like we have never had but...**

I will still teach a Montessori curriculum!! I will encourage as much independence and freedom of choice as I possibly can within our "new normal" limits. I will present whole group, small group, and individual lessons. For whole group lessons, I plan to walk around the tables and work areas while I'm speaking so that children may see the materials ( this applies to read alouds as well). Small group lessons will be similar, though I will give lessons to children who are seated nearest each other. If I am giving individual lessons, I will maintain a 6-foot distance.

Each child will have his or her own work spot. This will either be a one-person table with a chair or a low table with a vinyl covered cushion (that I will sanitize after dismissal).

I have set up separate areas from which the children may choose works. Each area has works from a variety of curriculum areas such as practical life, language, math, science, geography, and sensorial. The children will choose work to make a new area each day until they have used every area (materials will be sanitized at night). At that point I will be changing the works on the shelves.

At the beginning of the year I generally do not put out "academic" paperwork, as the Montessori curriculum focuses on learning with hands-on materials. Paperwork in the Montessori curriculum is typically used as an extension of a taught skill or for practice to internalize a skill. You will begin to see more academic paperwork as the year goes on.

However, children will have folders in their cubbies at the beginning of the year that will have blank pages, coloring pages, other papers for artwork, and later, papers for practicing skills they are learning. Children are welcome to use any of this paperwork during their work time in addition to the materials on the shelves (using their own pencils, crayons, glue sticks, etc.).

We will have scheduled mask breaks outdoors in the morning and in the afternoon but if children need to take a mask break at other times they certainly may do so and one of the teachers will assist them in going outdoors. Please note: we are working on ways to take mask breaks safely indoors during inclement weather.

During recess time, I will often organize structured group games that will help the children maintain a safe distance from each other. The children will learn which specific outdoor area is for them to play in and we will practice things like walking its boundary so that the children are familiar with the area and know to stay together. They may also use the beach towels they bring to school each day to define a space during outdoor learning times, mask breaks, or games.