

Kiva Montessori Fall Learning and Facilities Plan

July 2020

Overview

The Kiva Montessori Learning and Facilities Plan is a crisis management plan written to support the school's operations while the community grapples with the impact of COVID-19.

Children's Kiva Montessori Charter School (KM) is a public charter school authorized by Montezuma Cortez RE-1 School District (the District). While Charter Schools have (and value) much autonomy in their operation and curricula, in matters of health and safety, Charter schools and their authorizing districts operate much more closely. And in times of a public health crisis, the most rational path for a small school with limited resources to dedicate to developing and implementing processes and procedures is to remain close to the] authorizing district.

Beyond this alignment, KM must adhere to [Colorado Department of Education Guidance](#) for reopening, to which the District has aligned its plans.

The District has approved a comprehensive [Draft plan for ReOpening](#) covering the following areas:

1. Commitment to Health and Safety
2. Operational Safety (Facilities, Busing, Cafeteria, and Food Services)
3. Supporting Student Academic Success Through our School Options for 2020-21 11
4. Student Engagement and Activities
5. Communications and Parent and Family Engagement

KM will follow the District's plans for ReOpening as detailed in its Citizen's Guide, with the following exceptions:

Transportation

All transportation of students will be conducted by the families, with the exception of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's bus service for Ute Mountain Ute Students living in Towaoc. It is the understanding of KM that UMU Education Department will follow CDE Guidance regarding student transportation. In the event that an individual staff or student involved in the UMU Bus Service tests positive for COVID 19, the bus route will be suspended for a period of 14 days in alignment with the Montezuma County Health Departments guidelines for quarantining individuals who have had "close contact" with someone who has tested positive for COVID. Other students who rode that bus will be moved to temporary online learning during this period but their respective classmates who do not ride the bus will not be impacted unless additional students test positive.

Food Service

KM will continue to serve breakfast and lunch in the student's individual classrooms or outdoors with school lunches prepared and provided by the District.

Educational Plan

Throughout the year, KM will be utilizing the following programs to ensure learning continuity.

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Reading: Orton Gillingham, Engage New York Primary and additional online solutions (Lexia, Prodigy, etc.)

Math: Engage New York and additional online solutions (Khan, etc.)

Montessori Philosophy and Curriculum - which includes project-based, expeditionary and community-based learning - will provide the framework on which the aforementioned programs rest.

Importantly, KM will provide technical support and professional development to support teachers in developing and documenting a Blended Learning¹ approach to school this year.

For the 2020 School Year, KM's focus for K-6 will be on Math, English Language-Arts (ELA) and Social Emotional Learning (each of which are key Colorado Academic Standards). For Middle School, ELA, Social Studies, Science, Math and Social Emotional Learning will be the focus.

The most difficult and inefficient learning times for students and staff will be the transitions between face-to-face learning and on-line learning. If KM builds its programming based on two modes of education (on-line and face to face) it will be at least twice as difficult for families and teachers. KM's strategy will be to deploy a single, Blended Learning approach in the classroom and at home. Our tactics will include:

1. Train the staff to adjust curriculum to build a KM Blended Learning approach.
2. Train families on the expectations of KM's Blended Learning environment.
3. Integrate blended learning in the classroom and at home:
 - a. Teachers will design curriculum using blended learning in the classroom (i.e. students on chromebooks using Khan or Lexia) and post results to a communication platform that will act as a Portfolio.
 - b. Parents will apply blended learning curriculum at home (i.e. practical life, cleaning) and post results to a communication platform that will act as a Portfolio.
4. Build a community of families that can provide support for each other's students when necessary.

Key sticking points to smooth transitions are:

1. Experienced, veteran teachers need professional development and technical support in order to successfully develop Blended Learning models that allows for focused transition between In-Person and On-Line Learning.
2. Families need training and support so that this transition is least disruptive to home life and academic progress as possible.
3. 12% of families report lack of internet connectivity.
4. 25% of families reported needing school for childcare, which means that students may need creative solutions to get adult support.

¹ Blended Learning is a term of art used to describe a mode of learning that is neither purely in class, nor, nor purely On-line. Blended Learning extends in-class learning to the home and bring on-line learning into the classroom. It requires higher resource allocation in training and communication with teachers and families.

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5. Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, as a sovereign nation, may quarantine in a way that is out of sync with Montezuma County or the State, which may require teachers to instruct in two modes.

An assessment schedule for students will be posted publicly and students will be expected to participate in Assessments throughout the year. DIBELS and STAR are the assessment tools KM uses, but may use other tools as well as necessary. Assessments will be used as primary tools for evaluating student learning and comprehension. Students who are designated Temporarily Online may be scheduled to come to campus to complete an assessment so as to ensure that the education staff has accurate data.

Utilizing these programs, both in-person and during remote learning, will allow teachers and students to better communicate and understand expectations regarding the completion and progression of assigned works.

Fully Online Instruction (100% OnLine Learning)

KM is working with Colorado Digital Learning Solutions to provide a learning pathway for families that is a 100% Online Learning option, free of charge to the families. KM will provide coordination, coaching and connection as a means to support families and student educational outcomes. KM 100% OnLine Learning students will be invited to participate with their classmates in school-sponsored social activities that occur outdoors (Circles, expeditions, etc.). All screening requirements for KM students will remain the same regardless of their pathway for learning.

Students will be given the opportunity to opt into the Remote Learning option at the beginning of the year. Students will not be permitted to move back and forth between the In-Person Learning Model or 100% Online Option. In other words, families need to choose a learning pathway at the beginning of the year, but may choose to move back at semester.

Janitorial Services

KM contracts its janitorial services. Staff will provide supplemental cleaning of high-traffic areas (doorknobs, keyboards, and bathrooms) throughout the day on a prescribed schedule that is aligned to the CDC standards being applied at other District Schools.

Timing of Mode of Learning

KM may opt to start school in Temporary Online Learning Mode as a response to conditions in the community as directed by the Local or State Public Health Authorities or at the discretion of the KM Board of Directors.

Start of School

KM may opt to begin school on a different day that is currently scheduled--August 17th--to provide staff, teachers and families more time to prepare for a new culture of learning.

Emergency Drills

A fire drill must be conducted within the first 10 days of school. KM will reserve the option to stagger its fire drills in ways that protect the cohorts of students.

Outside/Expeditionary Education

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KM will leverage its access to parks and outdoor learning spaces as a means to provide high-quality education and decrease likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.

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