

Update on MGNS for the Fall 2020

The Madison School District has now decided that they will be doing 100% virtual school until at least the end of October. This is a section from the release from the Interim Superintendent of the Madison School District.

Today, we have concerns as local cases continue to surge, and guidance from public health on what schools are required to have in place to reopen leaves us with limited options. We've also continued to hear your concerns. After deep consideration of all of these factors, we have determined that it would not be safe for us to reopen school buildings in September, even in a hybrid model. Therefore we have made the difficult decision to start the school year 100% Virtual Learning. Virtual Learning will take place at least through first quarter (October 30).

As a school community, MGNS has been struggling with our own decisions for the last several weeks. We recently reached the conclusion that if MMSD did not feel it was safe to open their school buildings, we would not also open ours. It is with tremendous sadness that we bring you that news. But to keep our staff, families, and kiddos safe, **we are going to postpone the opening of our school building** until such time as it is safer to do so.

The Starfish and Penguin classes are 3year olds, generally, and "online/virtual/at-home learning" is really not developmentally appropriate. As a staff, we know that we could not replace what was inside our classrooms with any sort of online program. So, if your family would like to simply wait for us to be back to school face-to-face (and your spot is secured), then that is great.

We also know that some kids were really looking forward to being a "Penguin" or a "Starfish" and that this news is going to be hard. For those who are interested (and there is no pressure) would like to offer a modified, age-appropriate remote-3K experience. The aim would be to connect, at least a bit, your littles with each other and with their teachers, as well as suggesting some fun things to do! You know your children best, so if they would love this, great. If this would not be their jam, that is fine too!

Our 4k Kids (Manatee and Dolphin classes) will proceed with a virtual plan similar to the Madison School District. We will be working with MMSD about how to do that best!

Our Toddler Time classes will be postponed until our building is ready to play in!

Our staff is heartbroken. Heading back into the building is a special time for us - meeting and getting to know a whole new set of small people. But we are confident that as a wider community, we can wait until it is safe to be together and play together in the ways that we love doing.

We will keep in touch with you as things evolve and change. Our board of directors is also doing a quick pivot and is thinking about ways to create community and engage families in this strange time.

We want to hear from you-thoughts, ideas, suggestions. So, please keep in touch with us, as we will with you. If you would prefer to reach out to our board- our Board President this year is Kathryn [Mingione--kpmingione@gmail.com](mailto:kpmingione@gmail.com)

We hold you close in our hearts and we wish you well.