

On-line program for FALL 2020

Parent input is vital for helping the school design a program that works best for students, parents and staff. This document was created from the answers in response to questions from the Fall 2020 survey:

Q. How will online learning work?

A: An Eyas teacher will present a 25-30 minute circle on Zoom for all on-line enrolled students in the morning at 9:00 am. This circle will provide students with opportunities to interact with peers and teacher(s). Introduction of the day's topic will be presented and an activity that students can do at home later in the day will be shown. Most of the movement and sensorial activities will be done in these circles.

Next, we will do a small group meeting of between 3-5 students, which will be grouped together based on similar developmental skill levels. This meeting will be used to present or practice a new skill that the members of the group will work on. The topics will vary every day and will include math, language, art, social emotional learning and sciences.

All the topics presented in these two meetings per day will be posted on Seesaw and additional assignments will be posted in each child's Seesaw account for each student according to their skill level to do on his/her own later in the day.

Students will initially need help to learn how to log into seesaw, click on an assignment, how to use various tools in the program, and turn in the assignment. Seesaw will allow children to voice record or videotape themselves doing the project. Using Seesaw is easier when done on an Ipad. It is more challenging to 'write' on a screen using a mouse. On an Ipad the student will be able to use his/her fingers or a pencil to draw and write. With guidance from parents, students will be able to gain independence in doing assignments. We would encourage parents to not correct the child's work. When students turn in their assignments, a teacher will respond with comments. We would like parents to read out the comments to the child and encourage the child to make corrections according to the comments. Teachers may also provide instructions and comments using voice text. This will allow additional independence to children.

We are also working towards adding a weekly one on one individual zoom session for each child so he/she can work on his/her seesaw assignments with a teacher. Children can be taught to log in to their Seesaw and share the screen on zoom. That way teachers can assist them with their work.

Weekly lesson plans will be sent home with a complete list of materials that would be used during the week. This will allow families to be prepared for the week. The lesson plans would be planned based on skill levels and interests of children just like we do in our in-person classrooms. Please note that sometimes teachers may need to modify their lessons based on the child's need.

Q. What will be the online curriculum?

A: Just as we do in-building, the curriculum is designed following the interest and development of the students enrolled, as well as seasonal and cultural influences. The curriculum will include all areas of a Montessori classroom- Practical life, Sensorial,

Geography, Art, Math, Language, Music and movement, Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Physical science, and social and emotional learning. We would also plan to integrate coding and cognitive thinking skills.

Our lessons will use materials easily available around at your homes. We will use concrete materials that will engage as many sensory and motor skills for learning as possible. We will also send you information on making some of the basic Montessori materials at home. This can be a family project involving children.

As mentioned in the Parent Handbook- Yearly, in Eyas Montessori tradition, studies begin with Grace and Courtesy and Regulation in the classroom, Plant study, Animal study, then the cosmic study of the universe and overall majesty of the planets, the Earth and then focus on studying the environment of the child. The yearly curriculum shifts so that throughout the child's stay (usually 3 years) at Eyas s/he will have been introduced to such topics as the seven continents, the United States, Biology, Botany, Ecology, History, Geology, Nutrition and self-esteem, among others. This curriculum will be modified to include how to connect with each other on zoom and learning etiquettes of virtual meetings.

Q: On-line learning isn't enough time.

A: Studies show virtual meetings are effective only when they are timed no more than 25 minutes at a time. Children at this age need to move their bodies and take a break to assimilate the lesson presented. The Seesaw assignments will be designed to provide a revision of what was learned in the zoom class.

Q. 20-25 minutes of small group lessons is not enough. More time would be desirable. Perhaps one on one lessons as well.

A: Studies suggest limiting virtual classes to 25 minutes for this age group. Another 5 minutes may be added for socializing making the small group lessons 30 minutes long. We have learned to add 5 minutes for transition time between groups to help reduce overlap and waiting. More than that time, children tend to lose focus and lessen desire to participate. We are discussing adding one or two 1 on 1 seesaw assignment teacher time assistance classes, so students can catch up and get extra help with any challenging tasks. The Seesaw activities are selected and implemented to include a combination of work where some of them are on print outs, some on seesaw's interactive mode, and some movement and recording work where children do an activity, video tape it and then post it. Depending on the needs of the group we will add additional sessions as and when needed.

Q: What will the schedule look like?

9:00-9:30: circle - all on-line enrolled students

9:35-10:05: group #1

10:10-10:40: group #2

10:45-11:15: group #3

11:20-11:50: group #4

Frequent Seesaw assignments posted to each child's account during the week, additional reading and movement activities may be posted. Activities posted are chosen specifically for each child in relation to growth and development. As soon as students turn in their assignments, teachers will look at it, add comments and either send it back or approve the assignments. This ensures the child is getting enough practice with the new skill being taught. So it is important that the students do these assignments independently without assistance from parents.

Additional small groups or individual meetings with the teacher to be made available on an individual basis.

Q: What will the tuition be?

A: On-line teachers spend significant time on lesson planning, creating assignments, posting them, checking and giving feedback to the responses on Seesaw, than teachers doing in-building teaching.

Teachers also have to be creative and flexible to sometimes modify lesson plans to draw the attention of a young student virtually. It is so much easier to do that in person in a classroom setting. We know it is much harder for teachers to be able to hold virtual classes. We really appreciate and take pride in having teachers that dove right in to taking on the task of virtual learning.

We would also like to do one or two sessions with new incoming students before the school starts so the students and teachers get to know each other.

On-line monthly tuition will be \$1,032.56. On-line school will follow the same annual Eyas calendar as in-building.