




2020-2021 Returning Safely to Campus

Detailed Re-opening Plan for
Omni Montessori School's
Blakeney Campus and Waxhaw Campus






“Community is about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”

-Brian Solis

As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we wish to emphasize the importance of working together to protect all of the members within our community – all of our students, all of our employees and all of our family members and friends. More than at any other time, we must be patient with one another and work cooperatively for the good of the whole school community.

To that end, we have created this “Detailed Re-Opening Plan” for your review. This document will provide specific information about the policies and procedures we have put in place for the 2020-2021 school year, keeping our mission of *educating children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori* at the forefront.

We are very fortunate that our small size and expansive outdoor areas allow us to be creative with our space. This ability to adapt classroom areas on our two campuses to meet physical distancing needs is key in our return to face to face instruction. Further, we are privileged to have employees who are comfortable returning to campus to work with all of our students. In addition, we have open and honest parents who completed our surveys and provided valuable feedback to help guide us as we planned for next year.

A photograph of a pond with trees and a building in the background. The pond is in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding greenery. Several tall trees with dense foliage stand behind the pond. In the background, a building with a brown roof and a wooden fence are visible. The scene is peaceful and natural.

Despite all of our efforts to ensure that our students and employees will be safe on campus, we recognize that there will be some families whose students will not be able to attend school on campus. For those families, we will provide a virtual learning option at the elementary and adolescent levels. At the Primary level, we will offer weekly check-ins and support to those families favoring a virtual option, but will be focusing our daily instruction on having our youngest students on-campus. Please see the section on Off Campus Learning Options for more information.

In closing, we will once again emphasize the importance of community and remind everyone that Omni is a community that takes care of one another. The more we all practice the guidelines set forth by the CDC such as physical distancing, frequent hand washing, consistent use of a cloth face covering in public spaces, and avoidance of large crowds, the more likely we are to keep all the members of our Omni community safe.

Thank you for your trust in us. We are looking forward to an interesting and unique 2020-2021 school year!

Sincerely,

Back on Campus Task Force



Guiding Principles for Returning to Campus

- Protect the health and safety of students and employees.
- Be compliant with government mandates.
- Utilize guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) the [NC Department of Health and Human Services \(NCDHHS\)](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#).
- Establish effective use of spaces and places to support physical distancing.
- Provide students with some familiarity of school routines for learning.
- Set clear expectations for everyone.
- Remain adaptable and flexible.
- Remain true to our mission.

Facilities Changes Made over the Summer in Preparation for On-Campus Instruction



- Every HVAC unit has been upfitted with a bi-polar ionization generator. As the air flows past the generator, positive and negative ions actively purify the supply air, killing mold, bacteria and viruses in the coil and living space. The ionization process also reduces allergens, smoke and static electricity, as well as controlling odors and other particles in the air without creating ozone or any harmful byproducts.
- Walls and doors were added to ensure that every classroom has a dedicated bathroom for use by students of that class only.
- Bottle Tree has moved to the Activity Center gym.
- The concrete subfloor in the former Bottle Tree classroom has been repaired and the floor covering replaced.
- Dogwood (new Primary classroom) is in the former Children's Nest area. A sink was added to the space to allow for ease in handwashing.
- Touchless soap and paper towel dispensers have been installed at every sink.
- Water fountains have been shut down. We are exploring converting those to bottle filling stations.
- Plexiglass partitions have been installed in a variety of classrooms and shared spaces to enhance physical distancing measures.



Arrival

- Health screening and temperature check for students will be required for drop-off at both Omni campuses every morning.
- Each Blakeney Campus classroom will have a separate entrance to avoid mixing of communities:
 - Poplar will use left main Primary Building entrance door
 - Sweetgum will use right main Primary Building entrance door
 - Magnolia will use Primary Building door closest to Activity Center (at end of Primary Greenhouse)
 - Dogwood will use main Activity Center door
 - Ginkgo will use first door of the Lower Elementary building
 - Sassafras will use the middle door of the Lower Elementary building
 - Sycamore (new third elementary classroom) will use the back door off the patio behind the end of the Lower Elementary building (if this class is on-campus).
 - The Bottle Tree students will use the door at the left end of the front of the Activity Center closest to the playground.
 - Red Maple students will enter from the main door on the Red Maple deck.
- Adolescent Program students who elect to travel to Waxhaw on the bus, will proceed directly to the bus after temperature check is passed.



Adolescent Program Bus Transportation

- Face coverings must be worn for the duration of the bus ride and while walking from car to bus.
- Upon entering the bus, students will use hand sanitizer.
- Students will be assigned seats to promote proper distancing.
- An adult bus monitor will be present at all times to ensure proper use of PPE and safe distancing behaviors.
- Some windows will be open to increase ventilation.
- The bus will be sanitized after each use, morning and afternoon.
- Bus riders will be health screened before entering the bus, morning and afternoon.

Face Coverings

- All of the adults who come in contact with the students will be wearing cloth face coverings, n95 masks and/or face shields. As much as possible, guides will be wearing clear face coverings.
- Every student, regardless of age, needs to wear a cloth face covering from their car to the classroom. Once inside the classroom:
 - Wearing a cloth face covering will be encouraged but not required for Primary students.
 - All Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Adolescent students will be required to wear a cloth face covering.
- Cloth face coverings will also be required for elementary and adolescent students outside when physical distancing is not possible.
- Omni will have disposable cloth face coverings available for emergencies.
- Just as with any other piece of clothing, please ensure that cloth face coverings do not have scary, inappropriate or controversial patterns.
- Students will have opportunities to take face covering breaks throughout the day.
- Families will be asked to wash cloth face coverings at home.





Physical Distancing

- Individual tables will be placed six (6) feet apart in Primary classrooms.
- In elementary classrooms, all students will be working at individual tables six (6) feet apart or at long tables with no more than two (2) students (one at either end) per table with a plexiglass partition in the middle.
- At the Adolescent Campus, students will be seated six (6) feet apart.
- As much as possible, cubbies and lockers will be assigned with spacing between students.



Cleaning and Hygiene

- Students will wash their hands when they enter their classroom (or building for adolescents), as well as frequently throughout the day.
- Primary and elementary students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after using a lesson and/or material.
- Adolescent students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after a change of location/building.
- All students will wash their hands before and after eating snack and/or lunch.
- As we always do, the classrooms will be cleaned daily, by the guide and assistant. The elementary and adolescent students also assist in cleaning their classroom environments at the end of each day.
- Our nightly cleaning service will clean and disinfect all classrooms, bathrooms and common areas.
- High touch surfaces like door handles, toilet handles, and faucets will be disinfected every hour.
- After a student uses a lesson/material, one of the adults will disinfect the used lesson before placing it back on the shelf.



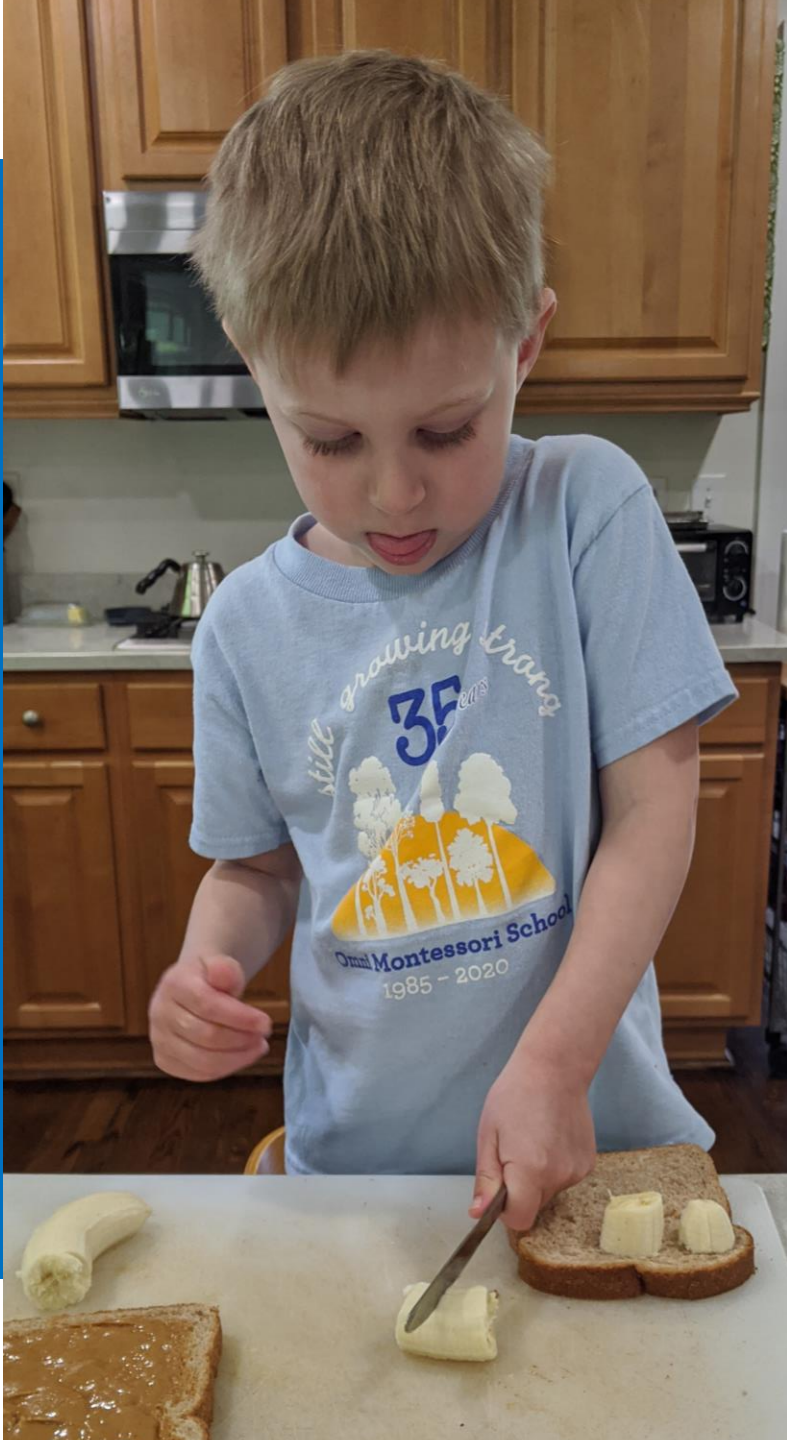
Our Blakeney Classroom Communities

- We have redesigned the daily schedule and the facilities to ensure that each Blakeney classroom community is autonomous:
 - Each classroom now has its own bathroom
 - All students and adults will remain in their classrooms as much as possible to ensure minimal interactions with members of other classrooms
 - Each student will have their own table to minimize cross-contamination. At their table, they will have a basket/bin with their own work rug, lunchbox, placemat, water bottle, etc.
 - Elementary students will each have their own school supplies, thereby limiting shared materials.
 - Each Primary classes' cubby area will be divided, either by plexiglass or furniture
- Visitors will not be allowed into buildings.
- Field trips and overnight trips will be postponed until further notice.

A photograph of a wooden deck and benches in a forest setting. The deck is made of light-colored wooden planks and leads to a wooden bench. The background is filled with tall trees and dense green foliage, creating a serene outdoor environment.

Our Waxhaw Adolescent Community

- Community and socialization are integral to our program, yet proper protection and distancing will be of paramount concern.
- All Adolescent Program community members are expected to work together on further refining our guidelines for a safe schooling experience that meets the needs of safety, optimal learning, and socialization.
- Visitors to the Waxhaw Campus will be asked to remain outdoors or in their vehicles.
- Field trips and overnight trips will be postponed until further notice.



Snack, page 1 of 2

- Each student will need to bring a labelled, full water bottle each morning to school.
 - Students will keep their water bottle at their designated space.
 - One of the adults will refill the bottle as needed (Primary and Lower Elementary).
 - Upper Elementary and Adolescent students will refill their own water bottles.
 - Water bottles will be taken home at the end of the day to be cleaned at home.
- Snack procedures will vary by classroom and program level:
 - Primary
 - Provided by the classroom
 - Snack will be either a whole fruit (banana, orange, mandarin) or individually packaged fruit or vegetables (apples, carrots, etc.)
 - Children will eat snack at their own table.



Snack, page 2 of 2

- Snack procedures will vary by classroom and program level:
 - Elementary
 - Students will need to bring their own individual snack each day.
 - Children will eat snack at their work area.
 - Adolescent Program
 - Provided by Culinary Manager
 - Snack will be either a whole fruit (banana, orange, mandarin) or individually packaged pre-made snack as determined by the Culinary Manager
 - Students will eat snack outdoors, appropriately spaced



Lunch, page 1 of 2

- All microwaves have been removed from all classrooms at both campuses. Please bear this in mind as you and your child(ren) plan lunches.
- Lunch procedures will vary by classroom and program level:
 - Primary and Elementary
 - Children will eat lunch at their table, using a placemat but eating picnic-style out of their lunchbox
 - We will not be providing plates, utensils, or cups
 - All children will wash their hands before and after lunch
 - Children will clean their individual table, then an adult will disinfect each table before work begins
- All students will have a midday temperature check during lunch.



Lunch, page 2 of 2

- Lunch procedures will vary by classroom and program level:
 - Adolescent Program
 - All will eat lunch outdoors at their camp chair, which will be provided by Omni, in a distanced circle, eating picnic-style out of their lunchbox
 - We will not be providing plates, utensils, or cup.
 - All will wash their hands before and after lunch
 - Patio and porches will be used in inclement weather
- All students will have a midday temperature check during lunch.



Playtime

- Each Blakeney class will enjoy 30 minutes of playtime each day:
 - Two Primary classes will have playtime from 8:45 – 9:15 am
 - Two Primary classes will have playtime from 11:15 – 11:45 am
 - The Lower Elementary classes will have playtime from 12:00 – 12:30 pm
 - The Upper Elementary classes will have playtime from 12:30 – 1:00 pm.
 - When more than one classroom is out at the same time, each class will use only one part of the outdoor play space (either in front of the Red Maple building, the field behind the Red Maple building or on the Primary playground).
- This playtime schedule not only keeps the children within their classroom communities, but also helps protect the morning 3-hour work cycle as much as possible.
- Adolescent Program students will enjoy 30 minutes of free time each day, after lunch. Details about free time will be provided at AP Orientation.



Community Spaces

- Blakeney Campus
 - Use of community areas such as the outdoor stage, playgrounds, open fields, etc. will be used by individual classes on a scheduled basis during the school day.
- Waxhaw Campus
 - Use of community areas such as the outdoor classroom, pond area, woodlot, fields, etc. will be used by individuals and classes on a scheduled basis during the school day.
- All community areas will be closed at 3:45 PM each day.



Dismissal, page 1 of 2

- Blakeney Campus
 - Primary
 - 12:00 PM - Students will wait on their cubbies until their parent arrives in the carline. One of the classroom adults will walk each child out to the car.
 - 3:00 – 3:30 pm – Students will remain in their classroom or on their cubbies until their parent arrives in the carline. One of the classroom adults will walk each child out to the car.
 - Elementary
 - 3:15 – 3:45 – Students will be ready to leave and will wait in their classrooms at their assigned dismissal time. When their parent arrives on campus they will be called down to their dismissal location. Adults will supervise the children and assist with car doors if needed.



Dismissal, page 2 of 2

- Waxhaw Campus
 - Dismissal from the Waxhaw Campus will occur at 3:45 PM each day.
 - Each community member will have a health screening before boarding the bus or leaving the campus.
 - Individuals not passing the health screening will be isolated and parents will be called to transport them home.
 - Students will disembark the bus and proceed directly to their cars upon arrival at Blakeney at 4:30 PM.



Screening for COVID-19: Know When to Stay Home

**No
concerns**

Proceed to Omni Montessori School

**Exposure,
no
symptoms**

Stay Home for 14 days since exposure (defined as being within six feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more).

**Diagnosis,
no
symptoms**

Stay Home for 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test.

**At least
one
symptom**

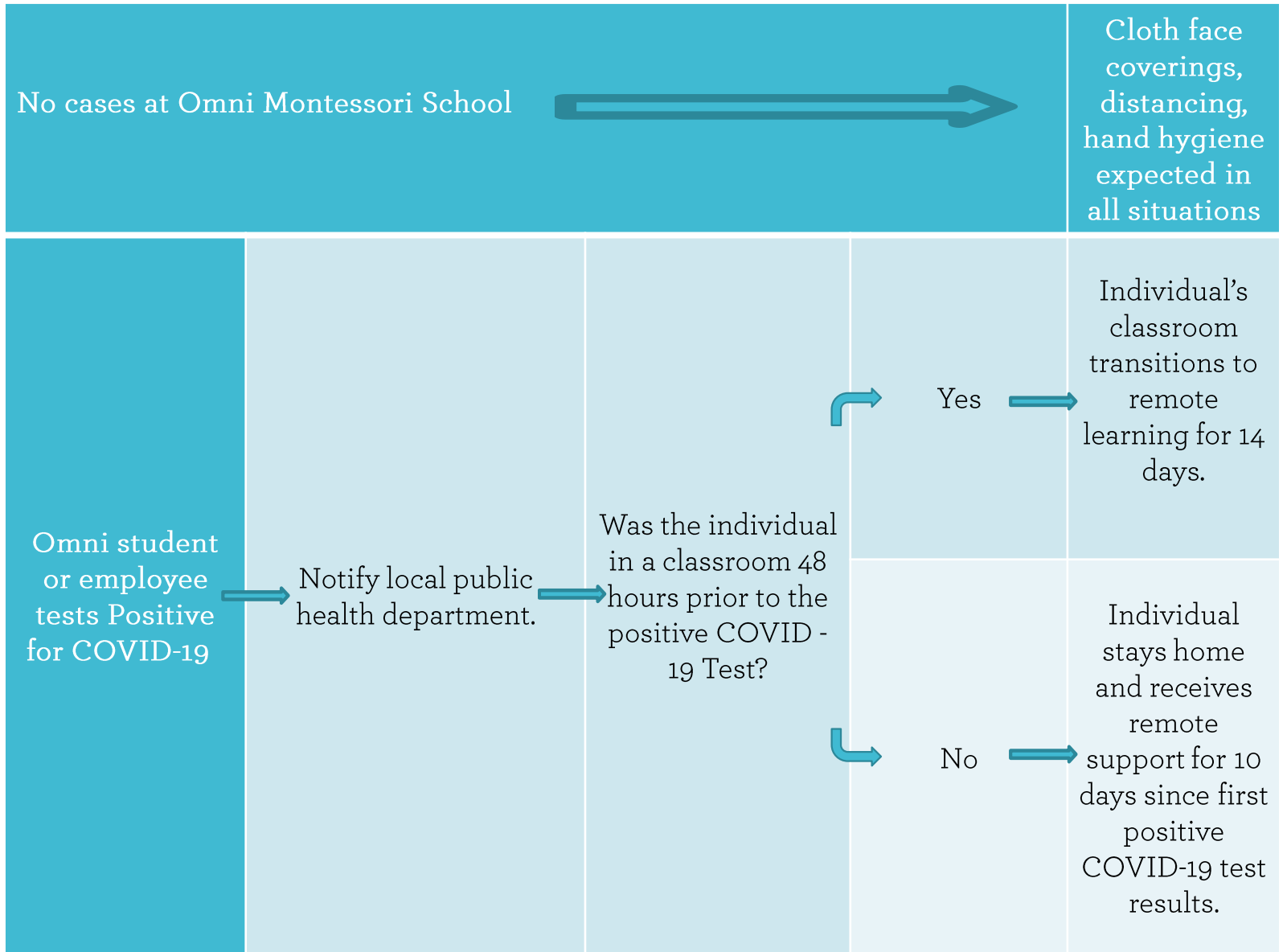
If confirmed positive COVID-19 test OR person has not been tested: **Stay Home** for 10 days since first symptom, AND do not return to school until fever free for 48 hours and experience other symptom improvement.

If confirmed diagnosis other than COVID-19 (e.g., stomach virus, ear infection) or negative COVID-19 test: Follow Omni Montessori School Illness Policies (see pg. 23)

Parents agreeing and knowing when to keep children home from school is a very important part of keeping our campus healthy.

Symptoms include: Fever | Chills | Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing | New cough | New loss of taste or smell

Screening for COVID-19: Omni Montessori School Guidelines



A vertical photograph of a wooden shelf. On the shelf, there is a dark wooden bowl, a small glass jar filled with colorful beads, and a small potted plant with green leaves. Below the shelf, a wooden label with the words "RED OAK" is visible. The background is a light-colored wooden wall.

Current Omni Montessori School Policy: Illness

- For the health of all, children may not attend school when they have a **contagious illness**. Please keep your children at home if they have any of the following symptoms or conditions: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, discharge of green or yellow mucus, pink eye, lice, contagious skin conditions (such as impetigo or ring worm) or any other contagious disease. Children may return to school after being fever free for 48 hours without the assistance of fever reducing medication. In addition, students should stay home for at least 24 hours after vomiting and/or diarrhea. A child who develops any of these symptoms of infection during the school day will be sent home.



Off Campus Learning Options

- Our Off-Campus Learning Options vary by the developmental stages of students:
 - **Primary:** Weekly remote check-ins with classroom guide and occasional synchronous and asynchronous lessons with Primary Team staff. Opportunity to return to on-campus learning may be offered in mid-January 2021.
 - **Elementary:** Full-time virtual Montessori classroom(s), each led by one of Omni's elementary guides and supported by Elementary Team staff. Depending on enrollment, this could be one classroom serving students aged 6-12 years or two classrooms (one serving students aged 6-9 years and one serving students aged 9-12 years). In either case, the classrooms would exist as individual classroom communities throughout the whole school year. Please note that our ability to offer this option is contingent upon student registration.
 - **Adolescent Program:** Adolescent students choosing to be off-campus will be supported by their advisor and required to attend classes virtually while those students on-campus attend in-person. Opportunities to return to on-campus learning will be offered at the end of each term.
- So that we can publish class lists and appropriately plan our classrooms, we are asking families to [register](#) for Off-Campus Learning by July 30, 2020.

A photograph of a white ceramic pitcher filled with a bouquet of yellow and purple flowers, sitting on a wooden desk. In the background, there are books, including one titled 'MATERIAL WORLD', and a window looking out onto green foliage.

Social and Emotional Health

The volume of information in the media and elsewhere about COVID-19 can cause concern for parents and students. Here are some tips to help address your family's social and emotional needs:

- Share age-appropriate information with students and correct misinformation.
- Reassure children that they are safe and that adults are working to keep them safe.
- Emphasize ways children and families can stay healthy and reduce the spread of illness.
- Try to keep routines as normal as possible.
- Limit the amount of exposure to television and social media regarding COVID-19.

Omni is thoughtfully planning ways to support all students' mental and emotional well-being upon the return to school. If you have concerns about your child, please contact your student's Guide or Level Coordinator.

If you need access to resources for mental health and wellness, call the Hope4NC Helpline: 1-855-587-3463



We Support the Omni Montessori School Community

The Leadership Team is working to provide learning continuity for your child(ren), and to provide a strong and safe community for your entire family. If you have any questions, please contact us.

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