MONTESSORI INTEGRATED SCHOOL

REMOTE LEARNING & BLENDED LEARNING

PROGRAM SET-UP

SY 2022-2023

The COVID-19 health situation has prompted all schools to move away from brick-and-mortar classrooms to digital classrooms. However, vaccination initiatives have given schools a chance to return to in-person learning in a limited way.

For school year 2022-2023, MIS delivers its brand of education online through two approaches: (1) pure remote learning; and (2) blended or hybrid learning.

In *remote learning*, the lessons, topics and activities are delivered asynchronously using the MIS digital classrooms, which are viewable 24/7. Visual and performing arts, music and practical activities will be integrated in the lessons. The lessons are presented or followed up through weekly synchronous classes (real-time online classes) that allow live student-teacher interaction. This type of learning also allows MIS to bring the Philippine and Montessori curriculum to learners, no matter where they are.

Remote learning can be combined with scheduled on-site school visits. This approach is called *blended or hybrid learning*. In MIS, students who choose blended learning will continue to receive their lessons online. However, in addition to the online lessons, students will come to school once a week for on-site class discussions, PE and wellness, and other non-academic activities. To observe proper health and safety protocols, blended learning students will be scheduled by batches.

Whether families choose the pure remote learning approach or the blended learning approach, MIS stands by its commitment to deliver quality Philippine education through the Montessori way.

Below are some of the most-frequently asked questions from parents:

- ## When will SY 2022-2023 classes begin at MIS?
  Classes in all levels will begin on August 1, 2022. All levels will begin the school year on remote learning. At the end of the first quarter, (October), depending on government guidelines at that time and expert advice, on-site visits may begin for those who signed up for blended learning.

  Those on the pure remote learning approach will be unable to participate in the on-site school meetings for the whole school year. *However, the online lessons for both blended learning and remote learning approaches remain the same.*

- ## What equipment is needed for remote learning?
  Students will need a good internet connection, a laptop or desk top, a headset (with mic) and the Zoom app. A printer for downloadable material may also be needed.

- ## Where and how will remote learning be conducted?
  Remote learning will primarily take place in digital classrooms (DCs) that have been set up on the Moodle platform. Students will be registered on Moodle, which will then send log-in details to the

student's email address to allow entry into the digital classroom. Each student will have a unique school email address for this purpose.

Once in the digital classroom, students will be able to view those classes in which he or she is enrolled. Students navigate through the platform and click on their classes to open topics, assignments, etc. Students accomplish the activities and submit them through the DC. This type of self-paced and self-driven learning is called *asynchronous class*.

- ## How many hours per day is the program for remote learning?
The general learning time is from 9 am until 3 pm, Mondays till Fridays. This time period helps give a structure to children's home study routines.

Once a day, a subject teacher schedules a *synchronous session* (live online class) to present and follow up the topics in the DC. These synchronous sessions may last from 1 hour to 1.5 hours. In the primary and kinder classes, the live classes are split into short sessions of 30 minutes each.

The rest of the student's learning time is spent on *asynchronous learning* – viewing, reading and doing the activities in the DC. Some of the lessons will be in the form of worksheets, while others will be videos, slides or simple task instructions. Outputs will be in the form of answered worksheets, videos showing the student performing a task, and written activities.

Quizzes and exams are also given using the DC.

- ## Will there be a schedule per day for online discussions so that students will be looking forward to it?
Yes. Schedules for the synchronous classes are announced ahead of time in the digital classroom, and announcements are automatically sent to students' email. Since the video sessions cannot be recorded because of privacy concerns, students should be present for all live discussions.

- ## How will the kids know what to do first?
The sequence of activities and topics is arranged by day, so that it is easy for parents and children to know where to start and where to end. The teachers will ensure that the workload will be easy to accomplish and not too long, so that online learning will continue to remain fun for the learner. To view the DC's lessons, all learners need to do is scroll down the screen and click on the featured week. The DC also has a taskbar feature which allows a learner to see the upcoming schedule of activities. The activities have staggered deadlines. The student needs to accomplish the work and submit this before the activity closes.

- ## What kinds of lessons or activities should we expect?
For the regular school year, Elementary and Junior High School students will have 5 major subjects: Languages (English and Filipino), Math, Science, Social Studies and PE and Wellness. **Each day of the week will feature one major subject as the main lesson.**

The main lesson will be delivered through a synchronous class that may last from an hour to up to 1.5 hours. During this time, the teacher will hold class discussions about the current topic.

The rest of the learning time will be devoted to asynchronous learning – the students view and read that subject's materials on the DC, and accomplish the tasks. Because the DC is 24/7, lessons and materials can be viewed anytime. However, submissions will be open only for a specific period (usually 24 hours, 1 week or 2 weeks, depending on the nature of the task).

Blended learners should expect to come to school once a week or so for live PE, Practical Living and other group activities on a tentative basis. The on-site classes serve as a supplement to the main learning which takes place in the DC.

The teaching approach will be integrated where possible. Arts, music, TLE, HELE and other non-academic activities may be inserted as part of the academic lessons. For example, in Science, a remote learning activity may ask a student to cook a viand. While cooking, the student takes note of the physical and chemical changes in matter. This activity merges TLE and Science. The cooking is then recorded on video, and the student can talk during the video about the changes in matter, also targeting English. Thus, when the video is uploaded, portions of the student's performance go into Science, TLE and English (co-grading). This approach ensures a healthy balance of academics and non-academics.

- ### What about tests and quizzes?

The DC shows the date when quizzes and tests will be available to students. The learner takes the quiz or test when these are open. Retakes can be programmed by the teacher to allow a specific number of attempts. However, once the student clicks on the test or quiz to open it, he will have to complete it.

Learners can definitely expect to receive quizzes and tests per subject. However, this will not happen every day, since departments will work to ensure that balanced learning takes place.

Students who are unable to take tests and quizzes for legitimate reasons can communicate with the teacher regarding this.

- ### What about books?

Books and uniforms are not necessary for remote learning, because the material will be uploaded into the digital classroom. As for uniforms, blended learners may be required to use an MIS shirt for on-site activities.

- ### Is it possible for a child to do all the activities in one or two days?

Teachers put a lot of thought into the sequence of subject matter – presentation, follow-up and assessment. The sequence follows a timetable which opens tasks or activities in chronological order, with particular dates and times, and then closes them. This allows diverse learners to go through lessons at their own pace, within a reasonable learning period.

- ### When parents send email, what is the turn-around time?

Teachers will monitor the DC and do synchronous classes within the 9 am – 3 pm learning period. During this time, they are expected to answer email, respond to messages in the chat area and do consults with parents. If an email is sent to a teacher after this time, it is reasonable to expect a reply the following day.

- ### In remote and blended learning, do we also respect holidays and no-class days?

There will be no synchronous classes and on-site classes on these days, and teachers will not assign new tasks or submissions. However, the lessons will still be viewable on the DC.

- ### Is the remote learning program designed so that children can be independent?

Yes. For older children, the remote learning program would require very little parent supervision, perhaps only in technical troubleshooting. However, younger children will definitely need active parent participation to be able to carry out the activities.

- **How can young children do online learning? My preschooler cannot read yet.**

Parents of learners in MCH and Lower Elementary levels have to actively support their children's distance learning, as this medium of instruction is vastly different from face-to-face interactions in regular classes. At times, the instructions on the subject matter will be addressed to the parents, so that they can do these with the children. Younger children will also need help with technical setup, troubleshooting, and establishing a home study routine. Thus, parental involvement is critical for online learning to be successful.

- **Fees include technical services. What are these?**

Technical services include monthly fees for our It infrastructure -- all the service fees needed to maintain and host the digital classroom sites and content, the monthly fees for digital classroom technical management and troubleshooting, and the monthly fees for our school internet, enrollment system database and upkeep.

- **What happens to remote learning if on-site classes are resumed?**

Regardless of whether or not on-site classes resume, *the digital classroom and synchronous classes shall continue to deliver the lessons online.*

When on-site classes are allowed to resume, students who are enrolled in the blended learning option will be scheduled to visit school in batches out of consideration for safety and health protocols. They will go to school at least twice a month for scheduled non-academic activities and follow-up class meetings. The focus in on-site activities will be socialization and peer-to-peer interaction.

- **What is the assurance that the health of our child will not be at risk if we enroll him in blended learning?**

While we have action plans for social distancing and health protocols in school, we cannot guarantee what happens OUTSIDE school.

- **How long does the child stay in school for blended learning?**

Blended learners will come to school on a strict schedule. Their school day will be from 9 am to 2:30 pm. They have to bring their own food and drink for safety reasons.

- **I'm worried about the safety of my children. Is it okay to stay on remote learning even if on-site classes resume?**

Yes, it is. Remote learning allows students to learn from the safety of their homes. This type of program is also ideal for students who do not live near the school campus.

- **If we enroll our children as blended/regular students, would we be allowed to change our minds to just proceed with remote learning for the whole year? Another scenario is if ever we enroll our children in remote learning for the whole year and we change our minds to let them attend classes in school when Covid is already stabilized, would this be allowed?**

Families on pure remote learning in the first quarter can shift to the blended approach prior to the **second quarter (November 2022).** In this case, the difference between the fees will be added to the student's balance. Shifting from pure remote learning to blended learning can only occur before the start of the subsequent quarter to prevent errors in our enrollment system.

Students who chose the blended learning option for the school year cannot move to pure remote learning unless health and safety conditions prohibit on-site classes. Should the government prohibit face-to-face classes for the whole school year, unused fees will be refunded to students at the end of

the school year. If face-to-face learning takes place, students who do not attend scheduled school meetings will be marked absent and no refunds will be given.

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