FAQs ABOUT MIS REMOTE and BLENDED LEARNING
SY 2024-2025

Having learned through experience that schools can serve learners with a combination of online and onsite methods, MIS continues to deliver its brand of education through a choice of two delivery methods: (1) blended learning and (2) remote learning. The FAQs cover the following:

- Blended learning program description
- Remote learning program description
- FAQs about blended learning
- FAQs about remote learning

Remote and onsite classes in all levels begin on July 29, 2024. During the first week, teachers normally conduct class orientations. Formal lessons normally begin in the second week of school.

BLENDED LEARNING

In *blended learning*, lessons are primarily delivered face-to-face (onsite) with technology enrichment. This means that students come to school for class discussions and activities. The onsite classes are enhanced by tasks in the MIS digital classrooms which students need to accomplish as part of scholastic performance. These asynchronous tasks include seat work, projects, assignments, individualized work and quizzes. Major tests may also be given online. In addition, for elementary and high school learners, weekly synchronous classes (real-time online classes) will take place for Physical Education and Homeroom where applicable.

For preschool, kindergarten and special education (Children's House) learners, digital classroom tasks may include the review of classroom songs, poems and stories, and drills. Eventually, this also includes activity sheets that are downloaded for paper-and-pencil work.

Onsite classes for elementary and high school last for 4.5 hours four days a week. For Children's House learners, each day lasts 3 hours, four days a week. Once a week, all learners stay home to accomplish their online asynchronous tasks and, for some levels, zoom classes. This is what we call *Home Study Day*. The schedule of classes is below:

Department	Children's House	Elementary	Junior High School	Senior High School
Grade Level	preschool, kinder, special education	Gr 1 – 6	Gr 7 – 10	Gr 11-12
Onsite days	Tuesdays - Fridays	Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri	Mon - Thurs	Mon-Fri
Regular Class time	1st session: 8:30 – 11:30 am 2nd session: 12:00 – 3:00 pm	9:00 am – 1:30 pm	11:00 am – 3:30 pm	9:00 – 3:30 pm
Home Study days	Mondays	Wednesdays	Fridays	none

REMOTE 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.

Students on the remote learning approach will be unable to participate in on-site classes for the whole school year. *However, topics and activities for both blended learning and remote learning educational programs remain essentially the same.*

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.

FAQS about Blended Learning

Where and how will blended learning be conducted?

Blended learning takes place primarily in the school campus where face-to-face classes will take place. Students will meet their subject teachers and classmates for discussions, presentations and other activities. In elementary and high school, a subject period can last from one or two hours.

These onsite experiences are supplemented with online seat work, assignments and other tasks that students can view in the digital classrooms (DC). Students navigate through the DC platform and click on their classes to open topics, assignments, etc. They then accomplish the activities at their own pace and submit them through the DC. This is the reason that blended learning is said to be technology-enriched.

For the Children's House, young children from 2.5 till 5 years old are combined in onsite mixed-level classes that last 3 hours a day. Their asynchronous tasks are designed to follow up work done in school, and need to be done with a parent.

What about quizzes and exams?

Depending on the subject, minor quizzes are answered through the DC. Major exams are done onsite at all levels.

What about books and materials?

Books are not necessary for blended learning, because material and links will be uploaded into the digital classroom. Students are expected to download these materials if necessary, especially if these are needed for onsite discussions. Special onsite subjects (such as robotics) may require books. Printed handouts may be given by a teacher if needed.

Blended learners should bring personal items such as ball pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Gadgets may be brought depending upon need, but students must be mindful of possible losses. Teachers will announce the need for special materials (such as an illustration board) ahead of time.

What about uniforms?

Blended learners at all levels must come to school wearing the standard uniform shirt. This can be paired with comfortable bottoms (jeans, joggers, slacks) and shoes (e.g. sneakers; closed shoes). A specific colored shirt or headband is required during the Practical Living subject. When a change of clothes is needed, students are expected to change into another uniform shirt. During school intramurals, students are expected to dress in their batch shirt. All shirts are available in the Print Shop.

What about snacks/lunch?

A 30-minute period is allocated for snack/lunch time. Students can purchase food and drinks from the canteen if they wish.

Are there after-school clubs?

MIS-sanctioned voluntary after-school activities like swimming and badminton, are held off-campus. Other clubs are held in-house, such as MISCraft (performance arts and crafts), taekwondo, basketball and wall climbing. Club admission cards are purchased from the Print Shop, and students may repurchase these as they wish.

Fees include technology 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. These are applicable to both blended and remote learning methods.

Is there support for children with special needs?

Depending upon their special educational needs and their age, children can be placed in a special education class or mainstreamed in a class with regular classmates. Those who are mainstreamed are supported by the Guidance Office with pull-out sessions once or twice a

week. The school's vision is for learners with special needs to eventually adapt the skills, language and behavior of their regular classmates. Thus, children who show this kind of potential are accepted into MIS with special support. For more information on special support programs, please visit: https://montessori.edu.ph/special-education-program/

FAQS about Remote Learning

What equipment is needed for remote learning?

Students 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 primarily takes 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 has a unique school email address for this purpose.

Once in the digital classroom, students can 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?

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 downloadable as worksheets, while others will be videos, slides or simple task instructions. Outputs will be in the form of accomplished worksheets, videos showing the student performing a task, and written activities.

For remote learners, 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 participants are extended an invitation by the teacher through email. Since the sessions cannot be recorded because of privacy concerns, students are encouraged to 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 ensure that the workload is easy to accomplish and not too long, so that online learning continues to remain fun for the learner. To view the DC's lessons, all learners need to do is scroll down the screen. The DC also has a taskbar feature which allows a learner to see the upcoming schedule of activities. It also shows how long these activities will be open. The student needs to accomplish the work and submit this before the activity closes.

What kinds of lessons or activities should we expect in remote learning?

For the regular school year, Elementary and Junior High School remote learners have 5 major subjects: Languages (English and Filipino), Math, Science, Social Studies and PE and Wellness. **Each day of the week features one major subject as the main lesson.**

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

The rest of the learning time is 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 are open only for a specific period.

The teaching approach is integrated where possible. Arts, Music, TLE, HELE and other non-academic activities can 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's task bar shows the date when quizzes and tests are available to students. The learner takes the quiz or test when these are open. Re-takes 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.

Is it possible for a child to do all the activities is 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.

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

There will be no synchronous 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 requires very little parent supervision, perhaps only in technical troubleshooting. However, younger children 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.

xxx