

September Newsletter 2020



Run Wild Around the World!

Our "Hear Me Roar 5K" is Virtual
OCT. 15-25, 2020!

How does a virtual race work?

You run a 5k (or 3.1 miles) on your own at the time, day and location of your choosing between the 15th and 25th of October. This could be on deserted streets at night, a little-known trail route or even on your treadmill. Everyone who registers gets the official race t-shirt. We're even going to have virtual random prize drawings.

Will this virtual race really help?

Yes! The net proceeds will be used for increased health and safety measures and increasing our technological capacity at HRIMS.

HRIMS Fun Run

"Run" Times

Thursday, October 15, 2020

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Toddler 1: | 9:00 to 9:20 am |
| Toddler 2: | 9:30 to 9:50 am |
| CH3: | 10:00 to 10:30 am |
| CH2: | 10:45 to 11:15 am |
| CH1: | 11:30am to 12:00 pm |
| Elementary: | 1:00 to 2:00 pm |

Virtual students will participate from home. Due to social distancing mandates, we ask that parents/guardians do not attend, but please join us virtually through FACEBOOK LIVE on the day of the event.

Like to walk or run?

Sign up here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Anytown/HearMeRoar5KandLittleCubCourse>

Want to leave the running to others?

Be a Sponsor!

Send this completed form to 5K@hrimontessori.org
or mail to : HRIMS 11790 Suite 200
Newport News, VA 23606

Check out the HRIMS Parent Portal containing the school calendar, event listings, and more. Let us know what you like to be added!

Details at <http://hrimontessori.org/portal/>

The password to enter the portal is: Ilovehrims!

Follow us on

Facebook

Show your support
by writing a review

on

Yelp and Google

School Calendar

| September | | October | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Accreditation Team Visit | Friday, Sept. 4 | Indigenous Peoples Day (NO SCHOOL) | Monday, Oct. 12 |
| Labor Day (NO SCHOOL) | Monday, Sept. 7 | Fun Run | Thursday, Oct. 15 |
| Professional Day (NO SCHOOL) | Friday, Sept. 18 | Virtual 5K | Thursday Oct. 15 - Sunday, Oct. 25 |
| | | Professional Day (NO SCHOOL) | Friday, Oct. 23 |

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! We are excited to have our students back, both in-person and virtual, and the smiles from both children and staff show that they are glad to be back, too!

We've begun the year knowing that flexibility, grace, and community support will be the necessary tools for navigating this year. We have anticipated many changes that have or will occur and have contingency plans in place to make seamless transitions. However, we know that we could not have come up with every "what if," and appreciate the understanding of our parents, students, staff and community as those glitches happen.

In that light, we have looked at each mandate, recommendation, and need for change as an opportunity to respond with an open mind, creativity, and the promise of new programs, new safety procedures, new visions, and new possibilities for both the short term and the future of HRIMS.

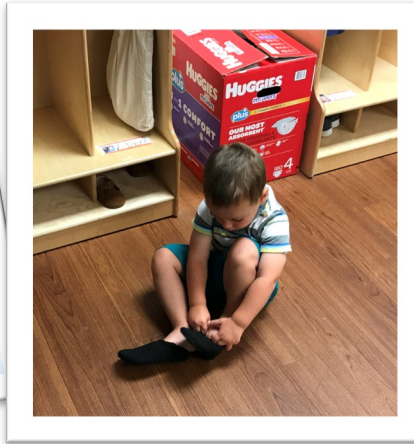
Knowing that there may be instances in which a child or classroom would need to quarantine this year, our staff responded by creating a distance program to not only respond to the need when it arises, but to expand the program to allow for choice for our individual families. Like our students and their learning, each family is different and has differing needs. Using the opportunity to offer a flexible program to our families is one way we have been able to not only address a need but continue to "think big" on how each opportunity can have the maximum benefit for our community.

We also continue to move forward with our strategic plan initiatives. Although many schools have opted to put their accreditation processes on hold, we have continued to work with the Middle States Association of Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) to stay on track for receiving our Accreditation. MSA accredits over 2600 schools across the United States and abroad, with schools in 112 countries. To learn more about MSA accreditation, please visit <https://www.msa-cess.org/>. Our Board, staff, parents and students have participated in the 2-year process, and more recently, have been interviewed by our visiting team chair. We are excited to say that our chair will be visiting HRIMS on Friday, Sept. 4th for the final portion of our accreditation and self-study process. You can see our self-study document on our website's parent portal at <https://hrimontessori.org/portal>. We are excited about not only the self-study process, which allowed us to examine every aspect of our school, including health and safety, governance, programming, student services, and more, but also the benefits of being accredited. Some of these benefits include the ability to participate in the tax credit programs being offered by the State of Virginia, the ability to receive additional student services and participate in additional programming, and the knowledge that our school has been truly vetted and is shown to be an exceptional choice for families (although we already knew that!)

Another announcement is the kickoff of our Student Fun Run and our Virtual 5K! Again, we have been given an opportunity to modify our annual event, and Mary Flaherty has come through with flying colors! This year, all of our students will be able to participate, as we will be having the student portion in person at the school! Each class will run at a specific time and we will be broadcasting it live through Facebook Live so all families, near and far, can watch the festivities. In addition, our 5K will be virtual over a week and a half, so our students and their family and friends from all over the world can participate this year! We ask that you support this fundraiser by sending in labels and sending sponsorship emails, finding business sponsors or sponsoring yourself, and sharing and encouraging others to sign up to run (and signing up yourself.) This event allows us to have a large-reaching fundraiser that doesn't rely solely on parents to fund it. As a non-profit, we rely on donations to supplement tuition to help pay for the full costs of educating the children at our school. Especially this year, with the additional expenses for the health and safety measures we have implemented as well as the smaller staff ratios, we truly appreciate your support in making our event a success. More information can be found in the packet of information being sent home in your child's folders.

Thank you for helping us begin the year on such a positive note. We appreciate all of the emails of support and well wishes for the school year. Thank you for entrusting HRIMS staff with the education and care of your children. There is no greater honor.

Michelle



What Your Child's Teachers Would Like You to know

We honor you as your child's first and best teachers, and our goal as your child's Montessori teachers is to collaborate with you as much as possible. We would like to share with you some suggestions that would help with your child's Montessori experience.

When we ask you to arrive on time, it is to enhance your child's start to the school day. When your child arrives at the same time as other children, they observe the morning routine. The child naturally joins in, doing what comes next. For example, greeting teachers and each other. They will start learning how to put their belongings away and put their slippers on. Arriving late means they miss the start of the day, and they must join the class already in progress. While this is not a big deal for adults, for many children it can be disorienting.

On the way to and from school, we urge you to create the space for your child to engage with you. This will encourage your child to use their words more and builds vocabulary. We also ask you to refrain from being on your cell phone on the way to and from school. To learn how to leave and to return to loved ones is an important skill. Transitions can be challenging for both you and your child but separation is a significant ritual that happens best in the moment, rather than slipping gradually through use of electronic devices.

One of the most important ways you can help your child gain confidence is by allowing them to take increasing self-responsibility. Encourage them to walk instead of being carried. The child can also take responsibility for carrying her jacket, backpack, lunch box, and other belongs. When you encourage this, you foster the child's responsibility as a natural part of learning how to be independent.

We urge you to attend our parent education events that we create especially for you. Our goal is to form a partnership with you by spending time together with you as adults. We offer topics that we think will be useful to you as parents to further your understanding of Montessori. Parent education events are also a time to socialize with other parents. This might be hard right now due to the virus, but can still occur in our virtual environment. We learn from each other, and there is so much to learn. We want you to know that your questions and concerns are important. Finally, know that we do want to hear from you and welcome you to be a part of our school. When your child sees you are happy to be here, this gives your child the message that this is a great place to spend the day.

The first aim of the prepared environment is, as far as it is possible, to render the growing child independent of the adult.

—Maria Montessori *The Secret of Childhood, 1966.*

5 ways Montessori can support social distancing

Reason # 1 – Spacious and well-ordered environment

Montessori classrooms offer an uncluttered and enticing environment specifically designed for children at each stage of their development. We are lucky that our children enjoy large spacious rooms with fewer children per room, but the careful use of the space is also key. Our classrooms are meticulously cared for, which encourages the children to take care of them. The children return learning materials to the shelf after they have used them, so it is only a small step to encourage children to clean materials after use too.



Reason # 2 – Independent and confident children

A central part of the Montessori approach is the focus on child-led learning which nurtures children's independence and confidence. Our children are given greater freedom and responsibilities which encourages them to take responsibility for their actions and be considerate to others, making it easier for them to comply with social distancing measures and more emotionally prepared for change.

Reason # 3 – Hygiene and self-care

From an early age our children are encouraged to practice good hygiene and to care for their own person. They remove outdoor shoes and put on indoor shoes upon arrival and hang up their own coats and bags. They are responsible for washing their hands and faces as necessary after eating, going to the toilet and playing outside or with art materials. As the Covid-19 crisis unfolded in March 2020, we increased our emphasis on good hygiene further with more frequent hand-washing and our children have easily adapted to these practices



Reason # 4 – Outdoor learning

One of the main pillars of the Montessori approach is a focus on integrating nature into children's daily learning throughout the year. At our school children are free to work outside as much as possible. Our children do specifically outdoor activities such as gardening, movement exercises, and observing nature, but they are also encouraged to take their indoor learning outside – such as working with math material, reading, art or practicing a play with other children. As the children already see our outside spaces as a

Reason # 5 – Calm and considerate behavior

Many visitors to our school are surprised by the atmosphere of calm they find and our children's ability to concentrate for long periods of time. This atmosphere is no happy accident but a carefully cultivated way of behaving and interacting with others. Our authentic approach to Montessori includes a focus on "Grace and Courtesy" – this is where we practice and model behavior such as walking around the room, sharing materials or making an apology. From the age of 2½ years, our children use breakable plates and glasses and learn to be careful with them; every one of our desks has a flower in a glass vase and the children carefully navigate the room and the vases are rarely knocked over. This greater self-awareness and self-control makes social distancing more achievable even with the youngest children.



Whatever the future holds, our children's happiness and safety will always be our first priority but we are reassured that their Montessori education will help them to cope in these extraordinary times.



Grow With Us



The Elementary classroom has gotten off on a good start with students creating a classroom environment that is community driven and already hard at work. With just the first few days of orientation under our belt and the first few days for students, they have already merged into research, math with binomials, bead chains, racks and tubes (division) and so much more.

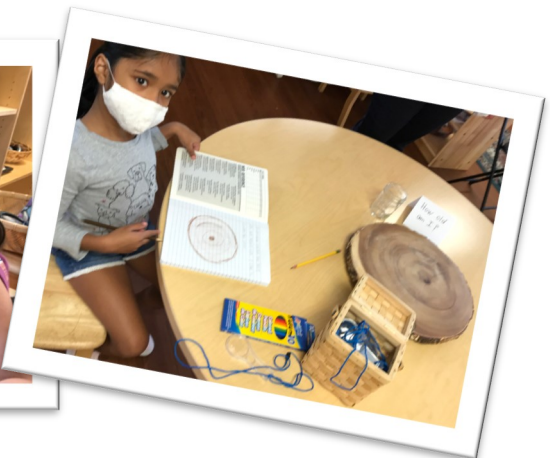
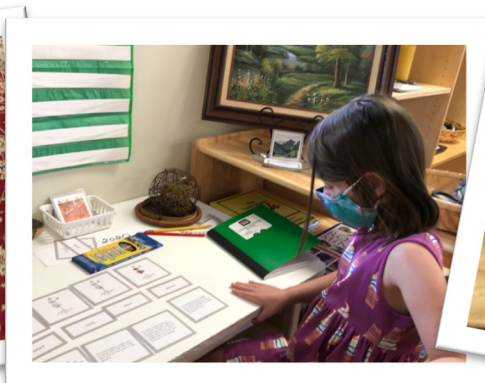
The younger students began work with their emergent reader books by creating them and reading them to a guide. All of the students have been working on their "All About Me" books and creating quick working groups. They are even making up the job lists and choosing their initial roles in the classroom. The older students have chosen their first few books for their book club. They chose Washaka the Bear Dreamer and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

We have begun Covid health training. Students are also beginning additional math lessons, art lessons focusing on Kandinsky, and starting research on Maria Montessori for her 150th birthday continue into our week.

STEM research happened after school today and the students had a lot of fun with Ms. Christian. We will be focusing on relationships, grace and courtesy, organization and scheduling, and these will make up the core of the next two weeks. Many observations continue to emphasize safety.

We loved seeing you at the back to school night and will continue to increase our tech savviness over the course of the month. Tech training starts soon to help students feel comfortable should their be online again. We hope all of you received the student guide to google classroom. If you did not let us know.

Virtual classes have begun this week and will continue to loosely parallel our coursework in class. Sending love to those on the virtual classroom grid.



Amazon Smile:

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to be returned to our school.

To shop go to smile.amazon.com. Select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Our school is listed as "HAMPTON ROADS MONTESSORI SCHOOL" for AMAZONSMILE.

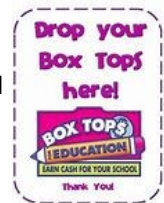
Amazon website will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. Checks are sent to the school on a quarterly basis throughout the year.



Boxtops now has an APP!

You can still cut and clip "Box Tops" and submit in a clear sandwich bag, but the App is Where it is At! Scan receipts and quit the cutting! Go to your play store or apple store, download and start earning CASH for HRIMS!

To find out more ways to earn, go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>



Shop at Kroger?

- The Kroger Rewards Program earns cash for schools by members scanning their Kroger Plus Cards. Every time a member shops for groceries and scans their card, HRIMS automatically starts earning a rebate.
- Register your Kroger Plus Card online at Kroger.com/community-rewards, by clicking on Enroll. Members can search for school by name or NPO number and link their Kroger Plus Card to the school.



Or are you a Harris Teeter Shopper?

Please link your VIC cards at www.harristeeter.com and link your VIC Card to HRIMS (#5082).

To re-link your Harris Teeter VIC card to your school for the 2019 – 2020 school year, click on: <https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education> and click on "Link My School" to sign in!

As we rely on fundraising to increase resources for our children, we hope all parents will utilize these programs as an additional fundraising opportunity for HRIMS!

