

The Montessori School of Camden

Montessori at a Distance for the 2021-2022 School Year

The Montessori at a Distance (MAAD) program was created as a result of the pandemic that struck in March 2020. The school operated remotely for the 4th academic quarter of that year for all students and selectively for the 2020-2021 school year as well.

For the 2021-2022 school year MAAD may be used in three situations:

1. A student working from home because of illness for a specified duration.

Parents of a child with such an illness will contact the school to make arrangements for MAAD attendance. A note from a doctor will be required.

2. As an alternative to a make-up day caused by a natural disaster.

The office will notify parents when a decision to revert to MAAD is made.

3. For children with health issues, or living with parents with health issues, that would make attendance at school unsafe for the student or a direct member of the household.

In order to participate in the MAAD program for these reasons, parents must provide a note from a doctor stating that attendance puts the student or a member of the immediate family at risk. In addition, the parents must agree to the “Montessori at a Distance (MAAD) Expectations, below. These expectations come from over a year of experience with students who used MAAD successfully, and with those who did not.

Montessori at a Distance (MAAD) Expectations

1. MAAD students are expected to be **self-motivated and self-disciplined**. Freedom and flexibility require responsibility. They should take ownership of the learning process and stay organized and on task. Successful MAAD students are independent!
2. MAAD students should **ask for help when necessary**. Many of the nonverbal cues that Directors use in a physical classroom are not visible utilizing the MAAD platform. If a MAAD student has issues with the technology or the subject content, the MAAD student must communicate this concern immediately.
3. Ideally, the MAAD student should **read and write at grade level and communicate effectively verbally and/or through writing**. In a MAAD classroom, communication is a combination of verbal and written, so it is critical that the student feels comfortable expressing him or herself. In addition, the MAAD student should be able to comprehend grade-level content materials. Students should be closely monitored by an adult. That adult helps communicate with the teacher which assignments are too easy or too hard for the student. The student should be able to complete assignments independent of the adult after the live lesson with the teacher.
4. MAAD students should **meet the attendance and work requirements of the program**. MAAD is flexible and convenient—but that does not mean easy. MAAD offers similar content and enrichment as attending MSC in a physical classroom setting.
5. MAAD students are required to **have regular, daily access to a computer with internet connectivity**. MAAD and its activities are primarily accessed and completed via the internet. Therefore, in order to participate in MAAD the student must have access to a reliable internet connection throughout the academic year. Basic computer skills are necessary. Alternate arrangements can be made if internet access is not available, including the school providing a hot spot.
6. MAAD students must adhere to MSC's Attendance Policy (see *Parent Handbook*).
7. Once enrolled in MAAD a student must remain in MAAD unless a doctor confirms that the circumstances requiring MAAD have changes, and that the child may return to school safely.

I, _____ (parent or guardian) wish for my child _____ to use MAAD this year. A note from a doctor is attached.

(Signature of parent or guardian)

(Date)