



Carson Montessori School

Carson Montessori Safe Reopening Updated Plan for 2023-2024

July, 2021; Updated January, 2022; Updated July, 2022; January, 2023; May 2023

Carson Montessori is the hands-on, real-world school that teaches, among the many life skills that are a key part of its curriculum, practical, immediately applicable coping skills for everyday life.

*CMCS is the School where
Students are not scared, they are prepared.*

Carson Montessori Charter School is committed to equal opportunities in both education and employment. Carson Montessori Charter School provides all students access to educational programs and activities without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, parental status or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Principal, 2263 Mouton Drive, Carson City, NV 89706 (775)-887-9500.

Carson Montessori Charter School's Safe Reopening Plan

July, 2021, Updated January, 2022, Updated July, 2022, May, 2023

AT THIS TIME, MAY 30, 2023, THIS IS TO BE THE FINAL UPDATE. IT WILL TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2023 AND IT IS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. CARSON MONTESSORI'S REOPENING PLAN CONTINUES TO BE SUBJECT TO CONSTANT REVISION AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE UPDATED AS NEEDED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR STAFF, STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY.

INTRODUCTION:

Since Carson Montessori Charter School is sponsored by the Carson City School District, and while CMCS is an independent charter school site, under NRS, and operates with its own Governing Board and a single administrator, there are contracted services that exist between the Carson City School District and Carson Montessori Charter School. For that reason, Carson Montessori Charter School follows closely the Reopening Plans of the Carson City School District, including the School Calendar and CCSD's General Safety Protocols. The CCSD School Board will approve the District's updated Re-opening Plan at a June, 2023 Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

Following the closure of schools in March of 2020, due to the Worldwide Covid Pandemic, Carson Montessori, which is a real-world, hands-on, Governor's Certified STEM School, launched its virtual program in 48 hours. **100% of our students were accounted for and had access to the virtual platform.** From March 16, 2020 to June 3, 2020, CMCS was able to provide equitable learning and **serve 100% of our students.** In August, 2020, Carson Montessori Charter School reopened schools for the 2020-2021 Academic Year using a hybrid/remote mix, like the Carson City School District. Mondays were a teacher prep day and an all-school virtual class meeting day. In-seat learners attended every other day. In October, CMCS opened four days a week in-seat for grades K-2. In January, CMCS added grades 3-6 to in-seat learning 4 days a week. All virtual students had the opportunity to return to in-seat learning, whenever they felt safe to do so, and by the end of the year many of our remote students had returned to in-seat to finish out the year.

SAFE REOPENING PLAN

The current Carson Montessori Charter School's Updated Reopening Plan was approved by the CMCS Governing Board at their May 30, 2023 Meeting. The Carson City School District's Plan, which we follow closely will be approved at a June, 2023 Board Meeting. Carson Montessori Charter School will officially open for the 2023-2024 School Year for students, in grades K-6, on August 14, 2023.

Carson Montessori Charter School's Reopening School Plan for the 2022-2023 no longer has two options. We have removed the FULLY REMOTE/VIRTUAL LEARNING MODEL. Should the situation arise that a remote delivery is needed; Carson Montessori has the capability of launching a fully remote option, and 100% of the student body will have access to technology and be online in 48 hours. Currently 100% of the CMCS staff is trained in using Google Classroom and YouTube Zoom. A survey will be completed by each student the first week of school itemizing the technology they have access to at home and what they would need. CMCS will continue the following online enrichment programs: IXL, ZEARN, Khan Academy, Raz Kid, Reading A-Z and NWEA Math.

IN-SEAT LEARNING ON CAMPUS FIVE DAYS A WEEK

In-seat instruction occurs 5 days a week. As a side note, Carson Montessori remains fluid and flexible and we realize, that for the safety of all parties, changes may be necessary. At all times, CMCS is bound by the Governor's Directives. CMCS also considers recommendations from the CDC, and the State and Local Health Department. All safety procedures and protocols remain in place. The safety and well-being of CMCS' students, staff, and families are our main concerns in our deliverance of a solid, hands-on, real-world, practical life wrapped, Montessori, Common Core, Standards Based, Curriculum.

This plan is the result of input from a variety of sources including citizens, parents, staff, community partners, the Carson City School District's public meetings and MOST IMPORTANTLY THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS. Through Carson Montessori's Messenger System, Google Classroom, the CMCS Website, the Carson City Health Department, the Carson City School District, and a direct telephone line to CMCS' Principal, who is accessible 24-7, all parties have access to offer input.

COMMUNICATION:

It is the goal of Carson Montessori to provide our students, families, staff, and community partners with the information needed to understand the continual processes and changes associated with keeping our school open. CMCS just hosted, on site, during May, 2023 the "Welcome to Carson Montessori" Parent Meetings for each grade level. This gives families and their students a chance to meet their teachers for next year and learn what their students will be learning. CMCS will host a Sneak-A-Peek in August and

offer *Parent University* trainings on the operations of the programs and the Nuts and Bolts of CMCS' technology systems. During the Fall Semester in 2023, we will be able to have meetings on campus for our *Knowledge is Power* series to help share the most accurate information and resources available. These workshops are done by highly qualified experts in the field of the topics being addressed. All families have access to a 24-hour hot line, operated by the Principal, at 775-750-0139, to obtain the latest information. Families receive contacts at least once a week from school personnel, including school Pee Chees, Individual and Schoolwide Class Messengers, News Notes, school-wide emails, Home Visits, Meetings in the Park, Messengers, and personal phone calls. Carson Montessori utilizes local media outlets, school websites, text messaging, email, social-media, and automated telephone-calls to educators, families, students, and community stakeholders to disseminate pertinent school-related information. Families receive a WOW SHEET information packet, so they can supply personalized information for each student, that creates the opportunity for CMCS to best meet the needs of each individual student. There is a Triangle of Accountability Contract that is signed by the student, teacher and family, that defines the role each plays in the education of their student.

Hand Washing Lessons are an integral part of the *Montessori Practical Life Curriculum*. Announcements identifying tips to reduce the spread of illness will occur regularly. Free, family-friendly materials by national, state, and local public health agencies are available through our email electronic distribution for students, families, and staff. Should it be necessary, all health-related messages will be available in both English and Spanish. Carson Montessori will also provide current, informational, health and wellness related resources dealing with COVID-19 on our Facebook page. We have staff trainings regarding illness and pandemic responses and the CMCS Covid Coordinator is available to answer any questions families may have.

Student Health:

WELLNESS:

All individuals on school properties are expected to observe and follow any of Carson Montessori's established Covid Compliant and Health Protocols, that are in place at that time. While we anticipate that we will need to remain fluid and flexible and that changes can occur at any time, our goal is to safely remain 100% open. With CMCS' 48-hour launch, should we need to return to rigid Covid protocols or have any medical issue, the appropriate engineering and administrative controls have been implemented to immediately facilitate observation to implement even to the extent of re-establishing social distancing including footprints on the floors, designated spots on the playground, and spacing of desks.

Families are still asked to be proactive and do an at-home health assessment of their children. Anyone, staff or students, with a temperature, flu-like or cold symptoms, or in general are feeling un-well should not come to school. Each classroom area has been provided with a touchless thermometer. Students have access to handwashing stations. Once at school, if a student or staff member presents with symptoms of an

illness, CMCS will follow wellness protocols for intervention. Should it become necessary, CMCS will, once again, activate its morning temperature check station, which checks the temperature of every student and staff member on arrival.

Students who develop flu-like symptoms during the school day are moved to a safe, comfortable, designated area, and parents are asked to come and pick them up immediately. Students sent home will follow the current *CDC Guidance, including any in place at that time in regard to Covid*, and any in place at the time and issued by Carson City Health and Human Services, which is part of the Quad-County Public Health Preparedness.

FACE MASKS:

We know that Covid and contagious illnesses will still be with us, so for the 2023-2024 School Year, and at this Update, July 1, 2023, masks continue to remain optional at Carson Montessori. Input from the members of the Student Legislative Team, who are serving on the CMCS Reopening Team, proposed that should masks be required, additional training for the students, especially the younger students on the proper wearing of the masks and the reasons for them would greatly improve the efficiency of the masks and that training would be extremely valuable in keeping students and staff safe and the viruses at bay. CMCS always has free masks available in the office and students can take them home to family if the masks are needed there.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY OPERATIONS AT CMCS:

In developing this Educational Plan, student and staff safety is of utmost importance. A multi-layer approach to building cleaning and disinfecting will continue to keep buildings clean and people healthy. This includes enhanced and frequent disinfecting of surface, the flushing of fresh air through filtered HVAC systems, scheduled and supervised handwashing with soap and water and the availability of hand sanitizer and disinfectant in every classroom. Hand washing is encouraged throughout the day and required before and after meals, as well as after outside play and recess. We have placed portable sinks in classrooms that had limited access to hand washing. Each student is supplied with a pencil pouch with all the tools they need. Hand Sanitizer is provided throughout the buildings. Students and staff may bring their own hand sanitizer. Any special Events or activities will be held according to Directives in place at the time. Signs reminding students and staff about personal hygiene practice remain placed in conspicuous locations.

CLEANING AND SANITATION:

Custodial and sanitizing services, along with increased ventilation processes, occur according to heightened operational protocols. A building management system that adheres to fresh air standards and proper indoor air quality enhances both CMCS buildings. CMCS has taken steps to contract with an HVAC Specialist, who performs an HVAC Readiness and Pre-Occupancy Assessment, so that we can

come to school with confidence. This activity is performed on HVAC, filtration, ventilation and is done regularly on domestic water systems. CMCS uses HEPA filters for all air-handling equipment. Portable Air Filtration systems, which were personally purchased by the Principal, are in every classroom. System filters are continually replaced.

CMCS disinfects touchpoints, table surfaces, and restrooms EVERY NIGHT. Students also disinfect their work surface when leaving EVERY DAY. We are using an enhanced disinfectant program and an electrostatic disinfectant mister as is needed. These activities required hiring an additional part-time custodian to thoroughly sanitize the building.

At the end of each school day, students and staff clear the floor of debris and regular school materials (pencils, crayons, paper, books, etc.) and store them properly. Montessori students all have jobs and are responsible for their environment. Trash bins and recycle bins are available in every classroom.

CMCS has purchased personal protective equipment, hand washing materials, and cleaning supplies that are made available to all staff and students. Liquid/foam sanitizer stations are placed at every building in the main entrance. In addition, wall mount dispensers are positioned throughout the building and classrooms. Hand pump dispensers are also provided throughout the school. Disposable masks and face shields are available free of charge to anyone who wants or needs them.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

In the event of an emergency, CMCS will activate the *Carson Montessori Crisis Plan* and use our multi-layered communication systems to contact stakeholders to provide instructions, guidance, and information to staff, students and families, as well as the surrounding communities, to maintain operational integrity. In the event of an emergency, CMCS has established Safety Services Protocols and a developed, tested, decision-making model, based on the Incident Command System. CMCS has the capacity and the plan needed to continue operational services and systems. We have laid out our parking lot to evacuate our buildings and if it should be required again, CMCS can maintain social distancing.

OPENING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Due to the fact that Carson Montessori has lost a large section of the on-street parking, for the 2023-2024 School Year and for the safety of our students and families, we continue to need our families to come through the line to drop off and pick up students. If families need to come into the building, they need to call 887-9500 and they will be directed where to park.

ATTENTENDANCE:

Attendance will be recorded daily. Teachers keep an active log of who is out on quarantine and who is otherwise absent. As a Montessori school and as per our Charter Goals and Protocols, Carson Montessori students have off-site, real-world, hands-on learning opportunities. Students, as per the CMCS Charter, can travel with a *Travel Packet* and still receive in-seat credit.

Staff does not need to use personal or sick leave if they need to quarantine. Staff is given fully benefitted leave.

School Schedule for Start and Dismissal Times

CARSON MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

8:45 AM All students attend Morning Assembly outside

3:15 PM Due to parking issues, CMCS had to go to a staggered dismissal starting with Kinder at 2:45

SPECIAL POPULATIONS:

- Families with students that have Individualized Education Plans are encouraged to contact Ms. Shellee Martin Snyder at 775-887-9500.
- A student's IEP committee and RTI Team will be convened to address services and support to ensure each individual student's needs are being met.
- The Carson City School District's Student Support Services office is working with Carson Montessori to ensure that we have the resources and support to meet our students' and staffs' individual needs.
- English Language Learners can contact CMCS' EL Department at 775-887-9500

GRADING SYSTEMS:

Grading at CMCS will use the established Standards-Based Model where the value of (1) represents not meeting standard. The value of (2) represents approaching standard mastery, the value of (3) represents meeting standard, the value of (4) represents exceeds standard. Carson Montessori uses *annotated observations as a valid form of assessment, *Portfolios, *Projects and conferences that are student-led and include family along with the required *MAPS and *SBAC assessments.

Nevada Department of Education Expectations

Within the In-seat Model, since CMCS is sponsored by the Carson City School District, we will:

- a. Use a consistent method in Infinite Campus for recording contact with students, which may include, if necessary, students demonstrating regular weekly progress in classwork that can be verified through Google Classroom as well as ANNOTATED OBSERVATIONS.

- b. If it is determined that a home visit would be beneficial to a student, ALL HOME VISITS must be two deep as per school policy.
- c. Provide a program of appropriate instruction for English Learners, students with Individualized Education Plans, and students with 504 Plans.
- d. CMCS guarantees any student quarantined on the advice of local public health officials receives access to educational services education.
- e. CMCS guarantees that licensed teachers and/or licensed substitute teachers are accessible to students through the Internet or by telephone during the regularly scheduled instructional hours.
- f. CMCS guarantees licensed educators have access to and participate in professional learning regarding high-quality health and safety requirements related to preventing the spread of COVID and other illnesses.
- g. CMCS guarantees that parents will receive general updates regarding the CMCS school's implementation in the primary language spoken in the home if necessary.
- h. A 24-7 hotline number, 775-750-0139, Principal Daniels, is available at all times.

ADDITIONALLY, CARSON MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL WILL:

(1) No later than ten days after a student starts at CMCS, we will identify if the student has or does not have the necessary technology and Internet access. Should CMCS ever need to return to a remote or hybrid learning model, a 48 Hour Launch is used at CMCS; where if it is doable, workable, and feasible, the project is launched and completed, when possible, within 48 hours, which is what CMCS was able to do during the initial quarantine. It is always our goal to have 100% of our students accounted for and technology verified and the ability to connect in 48 hours.

a) Students lacking a device with which to participate in distance education should we need to reinstate it or if multiple students are in one home and are sharing devices, then the total number of students without devices should be reported as the difference between the number of enrolled students in the home and the number of devices in the home that can be used to participate in distance education;

b) Every effort will be made to identify students without a subscription to home or residential broadband or high-speed Internet service;

c) Households with a subscription to home or residential broadband or high-speed Internet service in which multiple students are sharing the same Internet connection and the number of students in those households; and

d) Students who fit the descriptions in both (a) and (b).

(2), CMCS will implement its 48-hour launch, investigate the situation and supply the missing technology. Should it ever be necessary and a situation where Carson Montessori could not supply the needed technology, CMCS would submit to the Nevada Department of Education the information and a plan. If it is at the start of school, we will meet a September 15 deadline.

NUTRITION SERVICES:

CMCS does not have a food services program. Students are required to bring their own lunch and snacks. However, CMCS has a fully stocked pantry that provides breakfast, lunch, and snacks to any student in need. This resource is paid for personally by the Executive Director/Principal of CMCS.

TRANSPORTATION:

CMCS does not provide transportation to students. However, CMCS makes every effort to help families make connections to assist with transportation needs. Since all families must transport their students, many families carpool. After school, the Boys and Girls Club, The Bridge and the Salvation Army all send buses to pick up students and transport them to their sites, for after school care.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Employees who have medical conditions and/or circumstances that may prevent them from returning to work should consult with their medical advisor as soon as possible. The staff member should also contact Carson Montessori's Executive Director and set up an appointment. With the onset of COVID-19, certain employment laws exist to help employees deal with the varying conditions associated with illness due to the virus, as well as CMCS, which is a "Family Always Comes First School," has special protocols in place. CMCS will be able to help staff through the various associated options.

- All employees should monitor their health and symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, etc.).
- All employees should maximize physical distance from others to the extent possible.
- Individuals returning to worksites, who may have any of the serious underlying health conditions as noted by the CDC, should take any and all precautions necessary to protect themselves.
- All employees should continue to Practice Good Hygiene.
- All employees feeling sick should stay home.
- Should staff be sick for an extended period of time, CMCS has a Sick Leave Bank.

All CMCS staff should anticipate the possibility of working outside of their usual and customary duties and assignments.

CHILD CARE OPTIONS:

While Carson Montessori does not provide on-site child care due to Covid, the following is a list of community services that are working with CMCS, including sending pick up vehicles at the end of each school day. In addition to private day-care providers, the Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada, the Bridge, and the Salvation Army all send vehicles for drop off and pick up. They are working with CMCS to assist the community with child care options during the 2023-2024 school year. To help our CMCS Families, they can drop off at school as early as 7:30 and there is no charge.

CONCLUSIONS:

Carson Montessori Charter School is open and in seat for 2023-2024 school year. The first day of school for students in grades K-6 on August 14, 2023.

The school will provide staff with additional professional development on specialized Medical Training from front line EMT experts, Jessica Harrington and Brady Longero. Office Manager, Sara Ross has completed her degree in Counseling and she is working directly with our school Psychologist, Lori Zamyslicky, to develop groups and programs to mitigate any effects either socially or emotionally that may be affecting our students or their families. Carson Montessori has Event Planner, Alicia Brown, returning as our Event Coordinator, including if there should be anything Covid related. All of Mrs. Brown's services are donated free of charge.

Successful teaching and learning depend on skillful teachers and interested students, who are able to use the tools and skills they are being taught and all the while they know they are in a safe environment. CMCS is committed to providing high-quality and accessible learning opportunities to all students – without regard to means, ability, or at-home support – while ensuring the health and safety of students, staff, and our community. The voices of the students are extremely important in the operation of Carson Montessori. Carson Montessori has a student team that works the Nevada State Legislature and many of the positive changes that have been made to education in Nevada are the result of the input and the hard work of this team. Students who need a 504 also work and collaborate on the writing of their own 504. Students serve on every school-wide committee and continue to have a direct input on this Reopening Plan. Carson Montessori has an extremely successful Student Medic Program, where all students learn to step forward, immediately assess a situation and then offer help. Through CMCS' Partners-in-Education, including the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department and Ambulance Services, training and on-site lessons are conducted as well as CMCS is a 100% Staff Certified ADE and First Aide School. This program is in place in Grades K-6.

**CARSON MONTESSORI STUDENTS
ARE NOT SCARED,
THEY ARE PREPARED!**

This Updated Reopening Plan was approved by a vote of the Carson Montessori Charter School Governing Board at its May 30, 2023 meeting. Since through the entire Covid Crisis and the continually changing World situations, along with educational uncertainties, including actions of the Legislature and State Government, the Carson Montessori Governing Board has given permission to the Executive Director/Principal, Jessica Barlow Daniels, Ed.S., NBCT, to use CMCS' 48 Hour Launch, which is defined as "a proposal that is doable, workable and feasible and it is launched in 48 hours. The CMCS Governing Board has also given Principal Daniels permission to make decisions on the spot for the well-being of the students, the staff, the Carson Montessori educational community, and their families. **The educational plan represented here is subject to change at any time due to the ever-evolving medical situation schools are exposed to on a daily basis.**

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