

The Montessori School *of* Raleigh

# RE-ENTRY PLAN

2020-21



# RE-ENTRY PLAN

Grounded in mission and rooted in the legacy of 45 years of exemplary Montessori teaching, we look forward to reopening the campus in the fall and to the growth and progress another year will bring. This Re-Entry Plan is the first of three you will receive. It is designed with the safety and well-being of all in our community as the highest priority.



National Association  
of Independent Schools



<b>KEY</b>	T/CH	Toddler/Children's House
	LE	Lower Elementary
	UE	Upper Elementary
	MS	Middle School
	US	Upper School

“Adaptability – this is the most essential quality..”

— Dr. Maria Montessori  
From Childhood to Adolescence

Campus Opens August 25

# RE-ENTRY PLANNING

## The Process

MSR has established a Ramp-Up Task Force comprised of the seven Subgroups shown below, each working on a distinct task related to reopening the school in the fall. Across all subgroups, the goal is to create a re-entry plan that prioritizes the safety and wellness of our students and employees, ensures an effective delivery of the Montessori and International Baccalaureate programs, and offers families and the school the flexibility needed in these uncertain times.

We plan to reopen for on-campus learning as originally scheduled on August 25, as outlined in the [Academic Calendar](#). As we have done in recent years, arrivals will be staggered across a number of days to provide time to orient students new to MSR and students moving to a new grade. The following Flow Charts, one for Toddler/Children's House parents and one for Lower Elementary through Upper School, present the decision paths we will use, as well as entry options for families.



Opening Day



Program Delivery



Business



Health & Safety



Campus Facilities



Academic Programs



Communications

## The Definitions

See following pages to learn more about On-Campus Learning, Blended Learning and Blended Learning Plus.

# ON-CAMPUS LEARNING



We are planning for on-campus school operations to resume in the fall. The community will follow rigorous hygiene and safety protocols that reflect guidance from the CDC, OSHA, EPA, and NC Department of Health and Human Services, our national and regional independent school associations (NAIS, NCAIS), local consulting health professionals, and our school nurse.

Specific decisions and plans regarding on-campus modifications will be finalized over the next few weeks; however, current considerations can be found on Page 10 of this re-entry plan.



You may assume that daily drop-off and pick-up times will be staggered to reduce the number of people congregating.



Athletics offerings will be determined by NCHSAA recommendations and requirements.



Encore will be offered. No decision has been made on After School Studios.



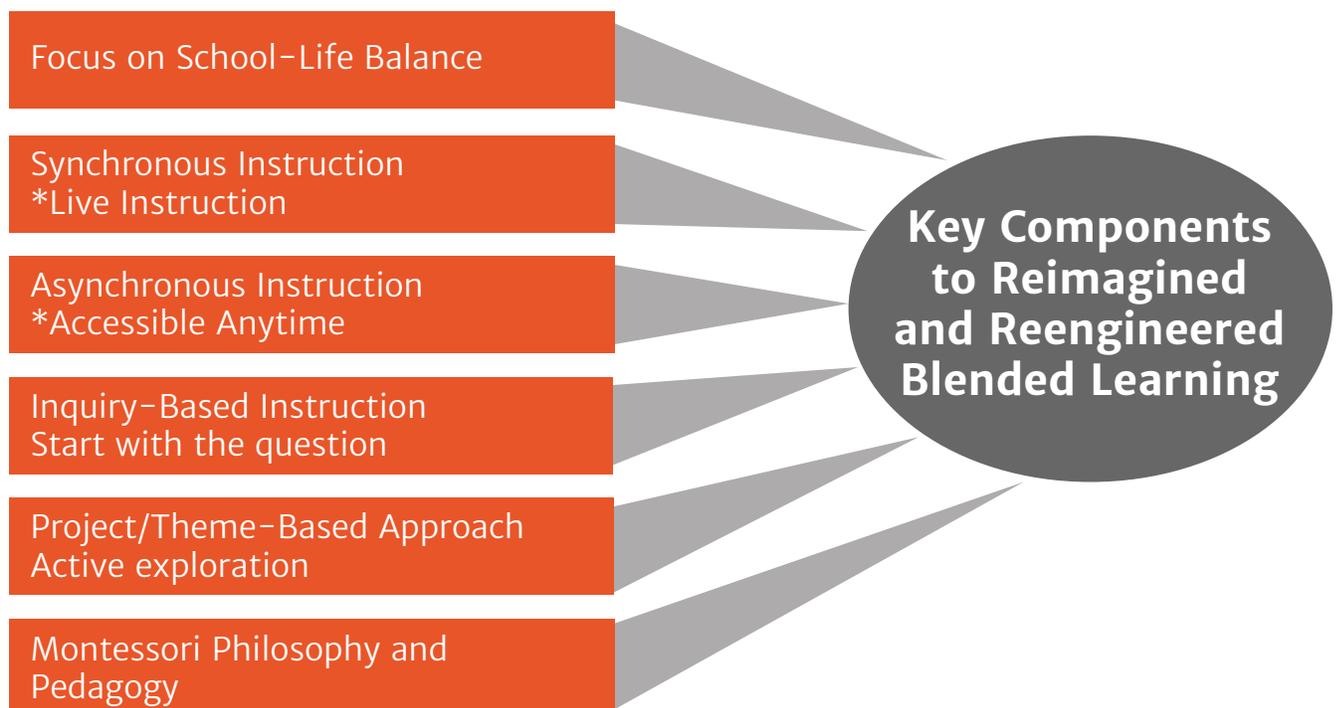
# BLENDED LEARNING



We are planning for waves of interruption given predictions about a second wave of the virus. Should that occur, we will pivot to Blended Learning, a *reimagined* and *reengineered* virtual instructional approach.

When we left our campuses on March 13, we pivoted to Emergency Virtual Learning in response to a global emergency. **We are no longer in reactive mode.** We have analyzed the lessons, tools, techniques, and software we used from March through the end of the year and selected those that were most effective. Over the past several weeks, we have consulted with experts, and twenty of our faculty are engaged now in intensive professional development to learn from leading virtual-learning authorities around the country on topics ranging from theme-based instruction and project-based learning in a virtual setting to best practices in pacing the flow of the instructional day and in fostering social-emotional learning and community building. We are now refining our industry-leading approach to ensure innovative and effective continuous learning regardless of mode of delivery.

During the recent Emergency Virtual Learning period, MSR distinguished itself in the delivery of full academic and social-emotional curricula, blending synchronous with asynchronous instruction and enhancing the learning experience with initiatives to build community and connection. At the heart of our success is our Montessori philosophy: we guide students to become resilient, self-directed, collaborative, intrinsically motivated and adaptable. These are precisely the skills that make it possible for our students to excel in a virtual setting.

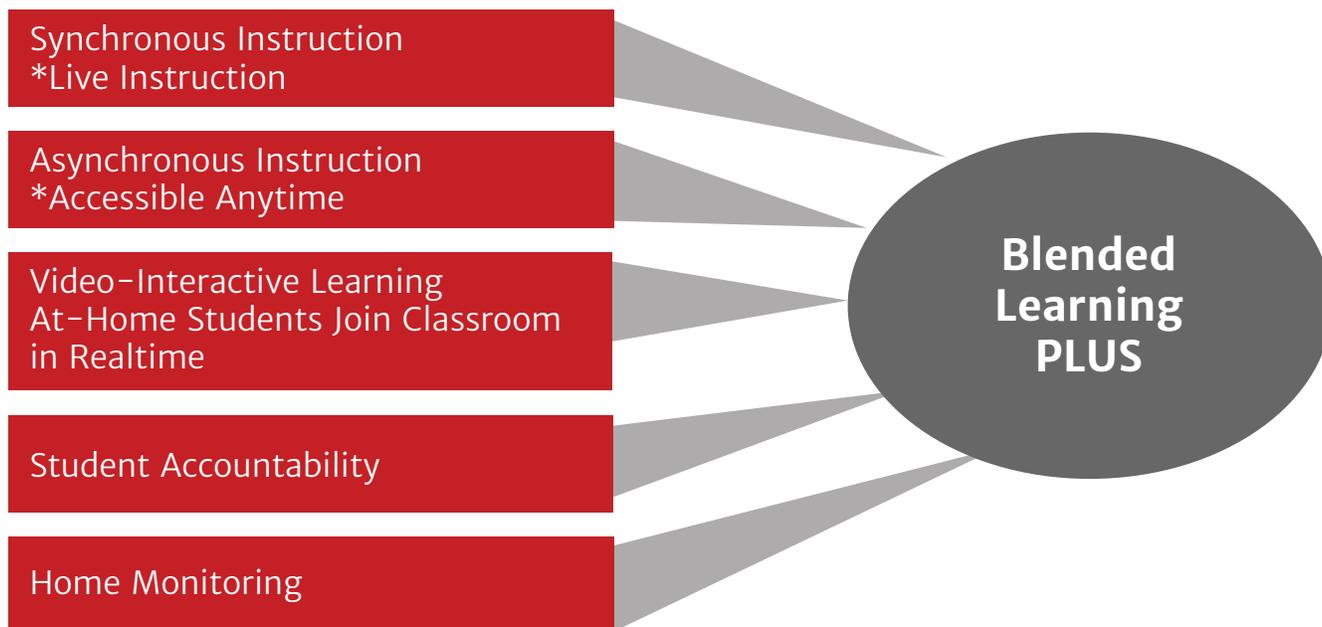


# BLENDED LEARNING PLUS



As educators we know that in-person, place-based teaching creates the most effective learning because of the ease with which we create a natural flow of interactive and collaborative synergy. In these uncertain times, however, we understand that some families may not be ready to have their child on campus. For those families we are making accommodations by offering Blended Learning Plus, a blend of synchronous (live instruction), asynchronous (accessible anytime), and video-interactive learning (students at home joining the classroom on campus through video-conferencing), with regular modifications to ensure a well-balanced curriculum with both academic and social-emotional focus. The formula for the “blend,” i.e., the proportion of each approach, varies by age and level. Synchronous and asynchronous will be used primarily in LE and UE classes, with students at home joining in community meetings and other group activities; asynchronous and video-interactive will be used primarily for MS and US students.

Blended Learning Plus requires students to be self-directed, organized, responsible, and accountable for their academic success and requires parents to assume some responsibility for their child’s learning.



# FLOW CHART

## PLAN FOR TODDLER, CHILDREN'S HOUSE AND ENCORE

We recognize that the needs of young children require significant supervision and support to facilitate their learning. We therefore plan to prioritize sustaining the on-campus experience for T/CH students even if we pivot to Blended Learning (synchronous and asynchronous) for the Elementary, Middle, and Upper School divisions. We recognize, however, that some families may not be comfortable with their child returning to campus. Blended Learning Plus will be an option for these families.

In consultation with MSR's Ramp-Up Reopening Task Force, medical professionals, and local officials, MSR is prepared to execute the physical campus modifications and health and safety protocols needed to support students safely returning to campus.

YES

The State of North Carolina and local governments have lifted the stay-at-home orders for childcare facilities. (Given the critical service pre-school programs provide to working parents, we believe it is likely that these programs will be allowed to remain open even if programs for school-age children are ordered to shift to remote instruction.)

NO

YES

[CLICK HERE FOR SPECIAL COVID TRPP](#)

As a family you have determined that you are comfortable with your child returning to physical campus.

YES

NO

### ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

Your child begins the 2020-21 academic year physically distanced on campus and adhering to required health and safety protocols. Should shut-down orders result in students LE through US not being on campus, physical distancing on campus for T/CH can be expanded, thus further lowering student-teacher ratios.

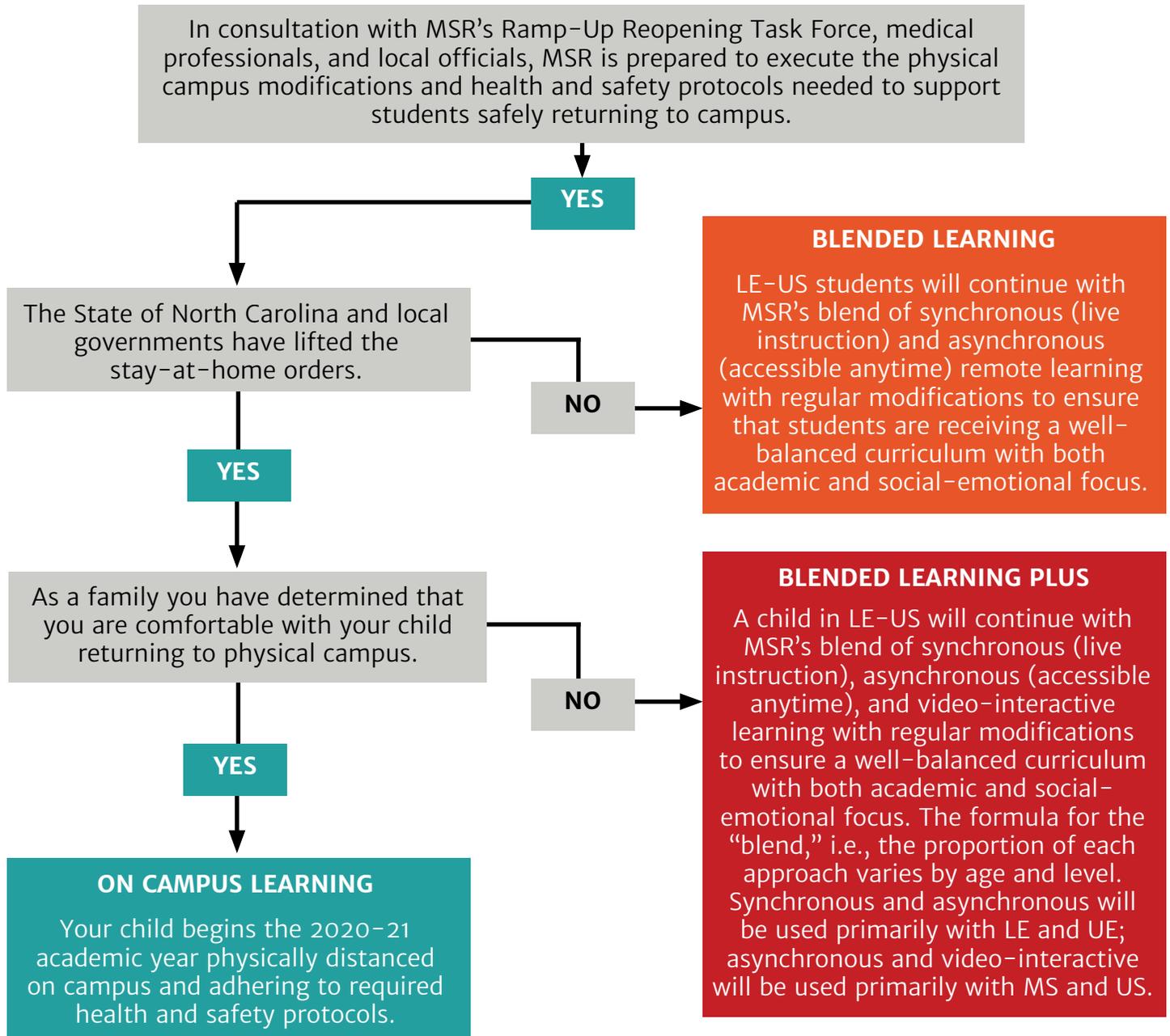
### BLENDED LEARNING PLUS

Your child receives instruction through synchronous (live instruction) and asynchronous instruction (accessible anytime). One-on-one touch point opportunities are provided weekly by teachers, both for students and for parents. Prepackaged material kits are provided to encourage your child's independence and reduce the time commitment for you.

# FLOW CHART

## PLAN FOR LOWER ELEMENTARY THROUGH UPPER SCHOOL

The campuses are scheduled to reopen on August 25 unless authorities require us to move to Blended Learning. MSR is fortunate to have spacious teaching and learning spaces both indoors and outdoors, and we have confirmed that all students can fit comfortably on the campuses with ample physical distancing. Therefore, should public schools cease in-person operations due to the inability to physically distance, MSR would continue to deliver on-campus instruction.



# ON-CAMPUS/BLENDED LEARNING/LEARNING PLUS AND MONTESSORI REAL-LIFE LEARNING



School is meant to prepare students for each advancing step toward success in college and, ultimately, life. But a child’s school years are much more than just preparation for “real life.” They *are* real life, and the ways in which our students learn and live today, in a global-pandemic world, shape the people they will become tomorrow. Montessori students succeed because every day they are learning how to cope, adapt, and thrive.



# DIGITAL PLATFORMS



Our Director of Educational Technology researches and tests the industry-standard digital products so we can integrate the best platform options to provide the most seamless delivery of our program virtually or in person.



Veracross is our primary portal for student and family information, grades, calendars, announcements, and more. Parents and students can access their Veracross accounts through [msr.org](http://msr.org).



Google Classroom, a Learning Management System, will be utilized for assignment management, videos, and class announcements. Students can also turn in their work on that platform.



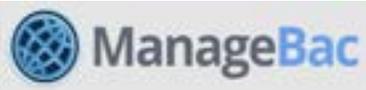
Zoom is a robust video conferencing tool that we will use for synchronous (live) class meetings and instruction.



Google Meet is another video meeting tool that can also be used for synchronous large- and small-group connections.



Loom will be our vehicle for sharing asynchronous screencasts and instructional videos with students.



ManageBac is the leading IB learning management system (LMS) for planning, assessment and reporting. This system empowers MSR faculty to design and integrate vertically aligned Montessori and IB curricula in grades 7 through 12.

# LAYERED DEFENSES AND LIFE ON CAMPUS



While specific decisions and plans will be finalized and communicated over the next several weeks as more information and guidance from public health agencies are updated, we are developing strategies in alignment with best practices to mitigate risk to our students and employees. Protocols being considered for further development include the following:



Daily screenings and temperature checks for all students and employees



Traffic patterns, foot and driving, designed to physically distance



Establishing “bubbles,” i.e., learning cohorts of students and teachers who stay together throughout the day, thus reducing exposure and facilitating contact tracing



Parents and visitors will not be permitted in buildings



Students will bring lunches and snacks; we will discontinue delivery of food to campus



Medical personnel will be on campus



Staggered schedule for drop off and pick up



All students from LE through US, all employees, and parents dropping off and picking up students will be required to wear masks



The potential to require all students and families to limit travel two weeks before the start of school to avoid exposure



Athletic options will be determined by NCHSAA



Enhanced cleaning with equipment specifically designed to sanitize surfaces; increased air filtration



Outdoor spaces will be utilized to full potential

# LIFE ON CAMPUS



Despite global uncertainty, we know with certainty that students learn best in a community of caring adults who know them and understand their needs. Even as we physically distance, wear masks, wash hands, avoid large groupings, and meet in cohorts, learning continues. Children and adolescents grow academically, socially, and emotionally and move steadily forward to become agile thinkers, poised communicators, gracious collaborators, and engineers of their own authentic and fulfilling lives.



**Ideal Student/Teacher Ratio**



**Traditions of Celebrating Success**



**Social-Emotional Learning**



**Gold Standard Curricula—Montessori and International Baccalaureate**



**Outstanding Early Childhood Program**



**Athletics and Physical Activity**



**Student Life Curriculum**



**Experiences in the Arts**

# WHAT DOES TUITION COVER?



Tuition covers approximately 85% of costs and pays for continuity of learning and community, which exists on and off campus. We have been fortunate to have the resources we needed to provide a robust virtual learning experience when that became a necessity.

## Facilities

These expenses remain with slight modification regardless of mode of instruction

- Maintenance and Cleaning
- Repair and Replacement
- Supplies and Equipment

## Educational Instruction

- Educational Technology
- Library Materials
- Academic Resources
- Athletic Equipment
- Drama, Music, and Art Supplies

## Financial Aid

- Financial aid is essential for expanding access to a broad range of families seeking the benefits of a Montessori education
- Special COVID-19 Relief Fund

## Operations & Infrastructure

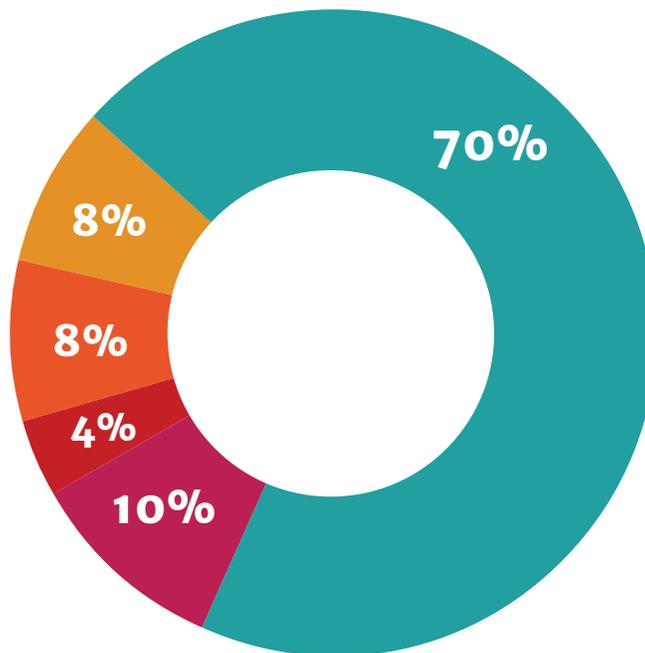
These expenses remain regardless of mode of instruction

- Business Expenses
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Memberships
- Accreditations
- Professional Development
- Technology
- Transportation
- Mortgage Payments

## Human Resources

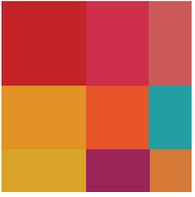
Teachers and staff to support and implement the development and delivery of curriculum

- Instructional Methodology
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Social-Emotional Support
- Arts/Athletics/Clubs
- Leadership Opportunities
- Community and Student Life
- College Planning and Counseling
- Learning Support and Accommodations



**The remaining 15 percent of expenses the school incurs annually is covered by The MSR Annual Fund and by auxiliary programs, e.g., SummerScape and Encore. We are grateful for the extraordinary generosity of MSR parents this year. Our parents' generous gifts, including those made as donations of SummerScape and Encore fees, played a large role in boosting The MSR Annual Fund to a historic high in the midst of COVID-19. The MSR Annual Fund is critical to the success of the School and the delivery of a robust virtual program.**

To review the modified COVID-19 Tuition Payment Plans, [please use this link](#).



# The Montessori School *of* Raleigh

## RE-ENTRY PLAN COMMUNICATION



- PHASE I COMMUNICATION** Released July 2
- SURVEY COMMUNICATION** July 17 (This communique will ask parents to confirm interest in Blended Learning Plus, busing and Encore)
- PHASE II COMMUNICATION** July 29
- PHASE III COMMUNICATION** Mid-August

### **P.E.P. Talks: Re-Entry Plan Q&A Sessions**

Have questions? Join members of Administrative Team, Faculty and Board of Trustees on a Zoom Information Session on the following dates and times:

**Tuesday, July 14** – Toddler/CH at 10:00–11:00 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 15** – LE/UE at 10:00–11:00 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, July 16** – MS/US at 10:00–11:00 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

[Register for the Q&A Sessions using this registration link.](#) For any questions, please contact the Enrollment Management Office at [admissions@msr.org](mailto:admissions@msr.org).



*We are grateful to Grandview Preparatory School in Boca Raton, Florida for granting us permission to use style and conceptual elements from the superb Re-Entry Plan Grandview prepared for its families.*