

MMBOA Air Quality Update

Regarding COVID-19, MMBOA follows the guidance of the San Mateo County Health Department and the CDC which both emphasize the importance of circulating fresh, outdoor air, as well as using filtration systems. From the CDC: ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors.

Consistent throughout our campus buildings and classrooms are MERV 13 or 16 filters for HVAC and/or filtration systems. These filters filter out of the air the following: pollen, dust, dust mites, mold, bacteria, smoke, smog, AND virus carriers. In addition, each classroom will be equipped with a GermGuardian 4in1 Air Purifying System as an additional component of air cleaning. These standing units continually circulate room air approximately 4 times per hour (depending on room size). The HEPA filter captures 99.97% of dust and pollen to trap allergens, and pollen. The GermGuardian fights germs with UV-C Power to help kill airborne bacteria, viruses and mold spores. An activated carbon filter helps to capture unpleasant odors including smoke.

The School's administration monitors the Air Quality Index (AQI) throughout the day to inform our decisions regarding whether to keep the school open, stay indoors, go outside with low impact play, or play freely. MMBOA administration diligently monitors a network of air quality sensors hosted by PurpleAir and specifically, the outside sensor located in Belmont just blocks from our school campus (Belmont, PurpleAir outside sensor). These sensors are updated more frequently than the EPA sensors, which allows us to assess local air quality trends around our campus in a more timely fashion. On smoky days, we convert the PurpleAir AQI, using the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) formula, to get more accurate and current readings. The LRAPA can be enabled on the PurpleAir readings on their website. Please see this [article](#) to understand how we use information from both the EPA and the PurpleAir network.

With all this in mind, MMBOA will use the following guidelines:

- Very Unhealthy -- (purple zone >200): School will be closed. MMBOA will remain closed until the EPA AQI is predicted to drop into the orange zone
- Unhealthy (red zone >150): If this is forecast by the EPA for the following day, school will be closed. We will remain closed until the EPA AQI is predicted to be in the orange zone. Should air quality reach unhealthy when our campus is open and both the EPA and PurpleAir (LRAPA enabled) AQI are above 150 for more than 15 minutes during the school day, the doors and windows will be closed and students kept indoors. Parents will be notified via email and/or text message and will be instructed to pick up their students early during a specified pick-up window.
- Unhealthy for sensitive groups (orange zone >100): The windows and doors will remain open and students can go outside for 15 to 30 minutes, but activities will be low-impact

- Moderate (yellow zone >50): Outside activities are ok; teachers will monitor children
- Good (green zone): All outside activities ok!

In all circumstances, teachers will watch for sensitivity and may decide to be more restrictive than the above guidelines, but not less restrictive. If we see that your child is coughing or otherwise being affected by the air quality, we will contact you to pick them up. Please note that if we have a sudden and very dramatic change in air quality in the morning and it increases quickly into the red or purple zone during the school day, the school will email you to notify you to pick up your child and that the campus will be closing for the day.

MMBOA Administration