



First Version Released August 20, 2020

The contents of this document will change.  
Please check back often.

August 20th, 2020

Dear Mountain Song Families,

Welcome to the extraordinary school year of 2020-2021 school! We are so excited to reconnect with you, your children, and the Waldorf learning adventure. We warmly welcome back our returning families and embrace our new families as they join our beautiful Mountain Song community.

We have been planning all summer for this unique and unusual year. We have come to realize that the public health situation evolves, and will continue to evolve. Our challenge is to be responsive to the changing environment with as strong of a sense of rhythm and consistency as possible.

This guide will therefore also evolve. It is your resource, providing answers and clarification to the many questions we all have. This document will be added to and revised as the school conditions change in response to the public health situation. We expect to receive updated guidance from our local, state, and federal leaders on an ongoing basis, and we will adjust this guide accordingly. Please check back often.

The Mountain Song school year will start in a Remote Learning mode. Our goal is to have the children back in school, learning in person, playing in person, and filling the halls and classrooms with their beautiful selves. Our first concern, however, is for the safety of our students and community. We will work hard to forge and maintain our strong bonds in all learning environments.

This challenging year will require that we all work together. It is vital that parents participate in and support the plan according to the enrollment option you choose. Please join me and the Mountain Song staff in upholding new ways of doing things during this remarkable time.

With warmest wishes,

The Executive Leadership Team  
Dr. Teresa Woods, Principal  
Mr. Dan Kurschner, Director of Operations  
Mrs. Sarah Kreger, Director of School Performance

# Enrollment Options for 2020-2021

## Full-time Learning, Grades K-8

This is our normal full-time program that will look different this year. It will be phased from Remote Learning to Full Class In-Person Learning in response to changing public health conditions. It will start in Remote Learning for all grades.

During Remote Learning, MSCS is contracting with a third-party provider to provide an onsite full-day supervised safe place for a small number of full-time students for whom there is no other option due to parents / caregivers' work requirements. Contact Mr. Dan Kurshner for more information: [dkurschner@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:dkurschner@mountainsongschool.com)

When students return to in-person learning, we will provide options for those students whose families require remote accommodations. This will only be available for the duration of the public health emergency.

## Homeschool Enrichment Programs

Homeschool offerings are enrichment programs in which homeschool parents/ caregivers are responsible for teaching all academic skills to their children. The school provides the equivalent of one day per week of Waldorf enrichment activities through a multidisciplinary curriculum rich in social studies, science, the arts, and movement. Two types of homeschool enrichment programs are offered.

### Village Homeschool Enrichment, Grades 1-8

This is our traditional program available for grades 1-8 only (no K) in which children attend class at Mountain Song one day per week. Due to the pandemic situation, this year the Village program will mirror the rest of the school in its phased approach from Remote Learning to All Class In-Person.

### Frontier (online) Homeschool Enrichment, Grades K-8 (New!)

This is our new program available to Kindergarten as well as grades 1-8, and involves complete remote learning using a combination of online and project based learning at home all year.

See chart in the appendix for comparison between homeschool programs.

For all enrollment questions, contact Mrs. Sarah Kreger, [skreger@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:skreger@mountainsongschool.com).

# Responsive Phased Model in 2020-2021

The Full-Time Learning and the Village Homeschool Enrichment Program will be phased. The transition between phases will be determined by the Executive Leadership Team under advisement of the MSCS Safety Committee.

Grades are grouped in 3 clusters, and decisions will be made for each cluster, with the possibility that one cluster may not be in the same phase as another phase.

## School Calendar

The [2020-2021 MSCS School Calendar](#) is currently in place without revision. School starts:

- **Grades 1-8:** September 2nd
- **Kindergarten:** September 3rd
- **Homeschool Enrichment (both):** September 8th

	Phase 1 Remote Learning	Phase 2 Hybrid Model	Phase 3 All Class In-Person
Grades K-1	Sept. 2 and 3 - Oct. 2		
Grades 2-4	Sept. 2 - Oct. 2		
Grades 5-8	Sept. 2 - Oct. 2		

## Phase 1 Remote Learning

Students will be at home learning through remote instruction from Mountain Song teachers. More details are below.

## Phase 2 Hybrid Model

Students will be in-person with half the class part-time, and remote-learning part-time at home.

## Phase 3 All Class In-Person

Students will be at school full-time with their whole class. Appropriate safety precautions will be in place.

## Timing of Phase Changes

In order to provide as much consistency as possible while also providing opportunities to move toward in-person learning, phases will be re-evaluated approximately every four weeks in light of the public health conditions. We intend to provide as much advance notice as possible for any phase change. Phase blocks correspond to the following schedule:

- **September 2 - October 2**
- **October 5 - October 30**
- **November 2 - November 20**

# Remote Learning

For the full-time and homeschool programs, MSCS will begin the school year with Remote Learning to establish familiarity and efficacy with this environment. Remote Learning will constitute part of the hybrid model (Phase 2), and it will be the default environment to which we may need to pivot quickly due to potential rising rates of COVID-19 spread. Mountain Song is committed to providing as much consistency, rhythm, and routine as possible to this evolving school year by establishing a strong foundation in Remote Learning.

Training will be provided to familiarize students and families to grade-specific online and other remote learning practices.

**Successful Remote Learning is truly a partnership between student, teacher, and parent/caregiver. Please be sure to work with your children each day to help them start on time, check their schedules, and be ready for the day.**

## Weekly Rhythm for Full-time Learning in Grades 1-8

The hallmark of Waldorf education is the relationship between students and teachers. Lively, dynamic lessons will be shared with students in the full-time learning program in a variety of ways from their class teachers and special subject teachers. Our schedule may change depending on the phase we are in, but it will consistently provide a rhythm of daily Main Lessons, special subject lessons, and independent practice through the following modes:

- ★ **Livestream Lesson:** Synchronous online learning in which teachers and students participate at the same time in a real-time class, but not in the same place.
- ★ **E-Lesson:** Asynchronous learning on a digital platform (not livestream), posted by a certain time but which can be completed any time before the due date.
- ★ **Independent Practice:** Activities that support student learning. Independent practice may include reading, writing, drawing, mathematics, physical activities, projects, general practice, and homework.

## Set Times

Learning is designed to take place during regular school hours, Monday through Friday. Classes will have set times throughout the day. Detailed weekly schedules for each class will be provided.

Within the livestream lessons, students will experience breakout sessions, independent work, and group activities, all lovingly held by their teachers. The number of livestream lessons a child has per day varies depending on grade. The Kindergarten program will maintain its play-based and practical arts focus, and it will have its own rhythm communicated by Kindergarten teachers.

## Schedules for Phase 1 Remote Learning - Full-time, Grades 1-8

The full-time learning schedules below are based on 40-minute periods, with the exception of 1st grade Main Lesson, which is 60 minutes. Each class teacher will provide a detailed schedule for each class. Many of these periods are Independent Practice. The periods during which students do meet with teachers will tend to end at least a few minutes early to give everyone the opportunity to move to their next activities. Teachers will tailor the periods to the specific grades and classes.

<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Grades 2-4</b>	<b>Grades 5-8</b>
8:00-9:00 Main Lesson	8:00-10:00 Main Lesson	8:00-8:40 Period 1
9:00-10:00 Period 1 (Ind)	10:00-10:20 Break	8:40-9:20 Period 2
10:00-10:20 Break	10:20-11:00 Period 2	9:20-10:00 Period 3
10:20-11:00 Period 2	11:00-11:40 Period 3	10:00-10:20 Break
11:00-11:40 Period 3 (Ind)	11:40-12:20 Period 4	10:20-12:20 Main Lesson
11:40-12:20 Period 4 (Ind)	12:20-1:00 Lunch & Play	12:20-1:00 Lunch & Free
12:20-1:00 Lunch & Play	1:00-1:40 Period 5	1:00-1:40 Period 4
1:00-1:40 Period 5	1:40-2:20 Period 6	1:40-2:20 Period 5
1:40-2:20 Period 6 (Ind)		2:20-3:00 Period 6

### Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Program will be communicated directly to families by teachers. It will include small group meet-ups at local parks to help create rhythm and make the remote learning more relevant. Teachers will prepare craft packets for home, create tutorials and recordings of stories and songs, and provide weekly live online meetings for parents. Teachers will help provide structure to the children's days by providing task lists of weekly chores and recipes to make at home.

### Homeschool Enrichment

Families enrolled in Homeschool Programs will be communicated directly to families by teachers. Teachers will provide enrichment activities for students, opportunities for students to connect with one another, and support for parents. A variety of Waldorf and Waldorf-inspired homeschool curricula exist; see list at the end of this document.

## Hybrid Model (Phase 2)

In the Phase 2 Hybrid Model, students will be in-person with half the class part-time, and remote learning part-time at home. Appropriate safety precautions will be in place during in-person learning. Half the class will be in-person on Monday and Tuesday. The other half of the class will be in-person on Thursday and Friday.

	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
Group A	In-Person	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
Group B	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	In-Person

Groups will be assigned and communicated in the near future.

## Differentiation and Accommodations

Mountain Song is committed to providing a quality education for all children, including those in special education and students with 504 plans. Our special education department will work closely with parents/guardians and classroom teachers in order to implement accommodations and modifications throughout the phases according to individual student plans.

Children in special education will receive individualized academic services through a combination of approaches. Our paraprofessionals will also be busy working with students in whole group class settings and in smaller groups. We have a wonderful team of related service providers that will schedule speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and social/emotional services via teletherapy in accordance with Individual Education Plans.

Although our goal is for all students to receive services in the least restrictive environment, we also realize that there may be some students that require something different in order to make reasonable progress. In those cases, the IEP or 504 team will meet. Decisions around services will be made on an individual basis in order to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students.

Students identified as Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, and students receiving intervention services will receive instruction and services online unless otherwise determined by teachers and parents/guardians.

# Online Platform and Technology

## Google Classroom and Email

Google Classroom within the Google for Education Suite will be used for Remote Learning. All students will be given a unique Google email address with the *@mountainsongschool.com* suffix during the enrollment process. More details and guidance will be provided in upcoming days.

*This email address should be used only for school activity and not for other purposes.* This email address will give students and families access to the school's Google for Education resources, thereby providing privacy and security for students.

The Google Classroom will be primarily for parent/guardian use in younger grades, and for both student and parent in older grades.

## Student Technology Hardware Requirements

While we are in Phase 1: Remote Learning, students will need to have the following technology to participate in their classes online:

- A desktop computer with Google Chrome (or Chromium) and a webcam and microphone  
or
- A laptop computer with Google Chrome (or Chromium) and an integrated webcam  
or
- A Chromebook with an integrated webcam  
or
- An iPad or Android tablet with an integrated webcam

Kindle tablets (Amazon Fire devices) will work for accessing teacher websites and Google Classroom, but they cannot connect to Google Meet for virtual class meetings. They are also not viable for NWEA testing.

- A set of headphones or earbuds are needed for virtual class meetings.

Questions regarding student technology requirements can be sent to Technology Lead Mr. Dan Córdova: [techhelp@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:techhelp@mountainsongschool.com).

## Tutorials

Instructions for downloading Google Classroom and Google Meet apps for tablets will be posted online. Teachers will be providing tutorials and assistance as well.

## Chromebooks

Mountain Song has acquired some additional Chromebooks for checkout. Please contact Mr. Dan Kurschner for further information: [dkurschner@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:dkurschner@mountainsongschool.com)

## Internet Access

Mountain Song is prepared to work closely with families to provide equitable access to our learning environments. Please contact Mr. Dan Kurschner if you have concerns about accessing the online environment. [dkurschner@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:dkurschner@mountainsongschool.com)

# Prepare a Learning Space at Home

Remote Learning this year will look different than last spring. This year we all will be held accountable for learning goals and engagement. The partnership between home and school is more important than ever.

## Organization

Help create structure for your children.

- **Space:** Set up a specific quiet learning space for each child. This could be a room, a portion of a table, an area of a room separated by a presentation screen or cardboard and decorated.
- **Supplies:** Mountain Song will provide supplies that can go home in a clear plastic box. Please help your child return items to the box so they don't get lost, and so they return to school.
- **Schedule:** Once you receive your child's schedule from the class teacher, please post this and help your child develop a routine during the day. Younger children might need this schedule to be created in pictures.
- **Routines:** Create a routine that's similar to what students experience at school and that also works for your family.
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## Communicate with the Teacher(s)

Mountain Song teachers are dedicated educators, and they are innovative. As concerns arise, please communicate with them. They may not be able to solve every problem, but they can work with support staff and administrators to help solve problems.

The Child Mind Institute has [valuable information on supporting your child during Remote Learning.](#)

# On-Site Considerations

## Temperature and Symptom Checks

In accordance with current state and local regulations, all individuals entering Mountain Song Community School will need to complete a Symptom Checklist and have their temperature checked using an infrared thermometer. Students need to have this completed and free of symptoms prior to parents/caregivers leaving a child at school. Please refer to this [Symptom Checklist](#).

Mountain Song will follow local and state guidelines for determining when a person should be at school or not. These symptoms are in addition to our regular school guidance (for example, a child with vomiting should also not attend school based on usual school guidance). See this guidance from CDPHE on [How Sick is Too Sick?](#)

Mountain Song is exploring prescreening apps to facilitate drop-off when students return to in-school learning. Please watch for further updates.

## Face Coverings

Upholding basic safety procedures while at Mountain Song is an expectation of every person while at school. Adults and children will be required to wear face coverings (see below) to the extent possible. A disposable face covering will be provided to anyone who comes to school without one.

### Face Coverings

- All students in Grades K-8 are required to wear face coverings except during outdoor activities unless the student has a health or education reason for not wearing one.
- All staff are required to wear face coverings during in-person instruction or when they are around other adults, except during outdoor activities when social distance can be maintained.
- All visitors on school grounds are required to wear face coverings.

Face coverings cannot be worn while eating or drinking. Teachers will provide as many outside snack and lunch periods as possible.

Please label all cloth face coverings with student names and grade level. Tying masks to a quick-release lanyard is ideal to have a safe way to prevent a child from losing a mask. It is each family's responsibility to [wash their own face coverings daily](#).

Everyone must follow the [CDC guidelines](#) for masks and face coverings:

- ★ The mouth and nose are fully covered;
- ★ The covering fits snugly over the bridge of the nose so there are no gaps;
- ★ You do not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the face covering;
- ★ The face covering can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping.

## Other Safety Procedures and Protocols

Mountain Song Community School will follow local, state, and federal guidelines regarding safety procedures and protocols. [Layering these COVID-19 transmission mitigation tactics](#) to the degree possible helps reduce the risk of virus spread.

### Hand Hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand washing before and after touching shared surfaces, eating, using the restroom, entering or exiting classrooms, or touching the face, mouth, nose, or mask.

Effective hand washing includes:

- ★ Washing with soap and water;
- ★ For at least 20 seconds;
- ★ Scrubbing top, bottom, in between fingers, and wrists
- ★ Rinsing thoroughly until water is clear.

### Physical Distancing

While 6 feet is the ideal distance, situations may not allow for this spacing. Every bit of distance is better than none. The MSCS Safety Committee will have protocols in place to maintain physical distance in hallways when students return to school.

### Enhanced Cleaning

Effective, safe, and EPA-approved cleaning supplies for COVID-19 that are non-toxic to humans are being used.

### Airflow/Ventilation

MSCS will create as much outdoor air flow into indoor spaces as possible using fans. Shared ventilation pathways are currently being checked and mitigated.

### Time Outdoors

Teachers will take students outside as much as is practical. Outdoor classrooms are being planned. Frequent outdoor breaks will also be utilized.

### Contact Tracing

All adults entering the MSCS building need to sign in and out so that an accurate record is maintained in case contact tracing is required.

## In Case of Illness, COVID-19 Case, or Outbreak

Mountain Song Community School will follow the latest guidance by [El Paso County Public Health](#) regarding reporting, isolation, quarantine, and school closure.

More information can also be found at the [CDPHE website regarding cases and outbreaks in schools.](#)

## Appendix: Mountain Song Homeschool Enrichment Options

Mountain Song Community School will offer two types of homeschool enrichment programs during the 2020-2021 school year. Both programs are enrichment programs in which **homeschool parents are responsible for teaching all academic skills to their children.** Both programs offer the equivalent of one day per week enrichment activities with Waldorf multidisciplinary curriculum rich in social studies, science, the arts, and movement.

The primary differences between the two programs are: the **FRONTIER (online) Homeschool Enrichment Program** is available to *Kindergarten* as well as grades 1-8, and involves complete remote learning using a combination of online and project based learning at home all year; while the **VILLAGE Homeschool Enrichment Program** is our traditional program available for grades 1-8 only (no K) in which children attend class at Mountain Song one day per week. Due to COVID-19, this year the Village program will mirror the rest of the school beginning with remote learning and returning to school in a phased model as safety allows.

<b>VILLAGE</b> Homeschool Enrichment Program (1-8)	<b>FRONTIER (Online)</b> Homeschool Enrichment Program (K-8)
Begins with remote learning and returns to in-class one day per week model in the same phased safety plan as all of MSCS	Remote learning all year, regardless of the safety conditions
Multi-age groups in which two or more grades of children learn together: grades 1-2, grades 3-4, and grades 5-8	Kinder, and multi-age groups in which two or more grades of children learn together: K, grades 1-3, grades 4-5, and grades 6-8
Presents one multidisciplinary Waldorf main lesson curricular block per semester	Presents one multidisciplinary Waldorf main lesson curricular block per semester
Requires one 6 ½ hour day per week in school attendance During Phase One of Return to School, this will be similar to the FRONTIER program in that it will be remote learning.	Requires 6 hours of participation time per week, including online instruction, home-based projects and activities, and parent resource opportunities, presented in a weekly learning menu of options.
Requires consistent in person attendance when our school opens for in person instruction, and participation in all phases of the Return to School model.	Requires regular participation in all aspects of the program, including documentation of completed projects and online attendance.
Children may not register for other public home school enrichment programs	Children may not register for other public home school enrichment programs

Both homeschool enrichment programs incorporate Waldorf methods that emphasize storytelling, imagination, arts, and a hands-on curriculum in which children learn by doing, singing, moving, and creating. Children learn using their heads, hearts, and hands as we offer experiences that engage the whole child. An emphasis on authentic, natural, and creative experiences defines our homeschool programs. We recognize that the best learning comes from active learning experiences. Activities such as drawing from their own imagination, creating music with their own voices, and building forts outdoors with their own hands ground children and help integrate sensory experiences in developmentally appropriate ways.

Please contact Sarah Kreger at [skreger@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:skreger@mountainsongschool.com) if you are interested in enrolling your child in either of our homeschool programs. If you have further questions, please contact Shannon Leifer at [sleifer@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:sleifer@mountainsongschool.com) or Claudia Martin at [clmartin@mountainsongschool.com](mailto:clmartin@mountainsongschool.com)

## Waldorf and Waldorf-Inspired Homeschool Curricula Available:

[Waldorf Essentials](#)

[Live Education!](#)

[Earthschooling](#)

[Oak Meadow](#)

[Christopherus](#)