

December 2020

General Questions (in COVID times):

Are you accepting new students this year?

- We accept new students every year based on space availability. We ask current families to re-enroll for the following year on February 1st. and determine the number of open spots thereafter.
- We do not accept students mid-year.

Can students enroll part time (ie not 5 days/week)?

- We do not enroll students part-time other than a ½ day option for Primary students.

What is the tuition? Is there tuition assistance? Full scholarships?

Current school year tuition is available on our website (EACMSI.org)

- Tuition is set by the board in December for the following school year. We have a robust tuition assistance program and every family who applies, receives. We do not have the capacity to offer full scholarships.

Is there an afterschool program?

- In usual years we have a very active Afterschool Program. This year, because of COVID restrictions, we are not offering Afterschool.. We will not make a determination regarding Afterschool viability in 21/22 until late spring. Covid restrictions would have to have loosened considerably for Afterschool to be possible.

Do students have to have immunizations?

- In order to attend school in NYS, immunizations are required unless an approved medical exemption is obtained.

Can you accept students with an IEP?

- We do accept students with IEP's if we determine that our system is able to meet their unique needs.

Do you follow the same schedule as the Ithaca City School District?

Our school calendar is similar but not identical to that of the ICSD. Depending on the year, vacation times may vary. Typically Parent-Teacher conference dates are different as well.

COVID specific:

How many students / teachers in a classroom?

- The number of students per pod is determined by the size of the space. We use the ROSNER Model designed specifically for Covid distancing requirements, to establish pod size. The 2020/2021 school year pods range in size from 9 to 16 students. Each pod has *at least* one teacher and one assistant.

Are students and staff wearing masks? Do they have to wear them all day?

- Everyone on campus wears a mask at all times except when eating and drinking.

What about students who are hard of hearing/comprehension difficulties?

- In some pods, teachers wear see-through masks that allow for lip reading.

How are you doing physical distancing? What about 3 year olds who need more hands-on help (ie toileting, dressing)?

- To the best of our ability, we maintain 6 ft distance at all times. If young children need close assistance, an adult will step in for a brief period of time. We expect all children to be potty trained and do not provide hands on support for toileting issues; adults give verbal directions to students who need instruction in self-care.

How do students eat lunch?

- Whenever possible, students eat lunch outside in a designated area for their pod. Each student has a dedicated yoga mat for outside purposes. Students sit 10 feet apart and eat freely unmasked. Inside, we have silent lunches accompanied by read-alouds, podcasts or video while children are unmasked.

Can students enroll as a remote only student this year? Do remote students have a different tuition?

- There is a full-time remote option available at the same tuition rate.

Can you accept students of essential workers?

- While we are happy to accept children of essential workers, parents/caregivers would have to have alternate arrangements if we were to be remote-only for any period of time. (We would not have "childcare" during a Covid facility closure.)

What will happen: If a teacher gets sick/ student gets sick/ if the school closes/ if the district closes?

- Our Covid response protocol is based on NYS and Tompkins County Health Department guidelines which are subject to change. The basic model involves quarantine and/or isolation of any students and staff if they are either symptomatic or they, or someone in their household, has had a known Covid exposure.

- We give a partial credit to families of Primary students if/when the entire pod must be remote.

How can we visit the school?

- Unfortunately a visit to campus is not possible given current regulations and guidelines.

Can we meet with the principal via zoom?

- Our admissions team and administration is available to meet via Zoom.