



THE GROVE SCHOOL

Our Mission: *The Grove School is a public Montessori community that guides adolescents in their work of self-construction, as they become engaged and respectful world citizens.*

Hello Grove Community,

I hope you are all safe and healthy. I want to thank everybody for their hard work, patience and understanding during this period of distance learning. Students have been engaging through online sessions, turning in assignments, and taking ownership of their academic and personal growth. I have enjoyed opportunities to pop into synchronous class sessions and see students and staff continue to work together.

As we approach the end of the school year, I wanted to highlight our upcoming key experiences.

Mentors are currently contacting students and families with a progress report of students' engagement during distance learning and an invitation to participate in virtual student led conferences. I want to encourage you to respond to your student's mentor and sign-up for this opportunity. These spring conferences will be different than ones in the past, but they will still play an important role in your student's growth.

Student led conferences give students an opportunity to reflect on their academic development, community involvement, physical expression, creative expression, and preparing for life as an adult. Focusing on these outcomes allow student led conferences to be more than a review of classwork and grades. They are an opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges over the year, as well as future goals.

To prepare for conferences, students have been asked to compose a reflective essay during the week of May 18th-22nd. This short essay helps students focus their thoughts and identify moments of growth and future goals. If students would rather compile these thoughts in a different way, that is also encouraged.

Student led conferences will be held May 26th-May 29th. During this week, there will be a drop in synchronous activity offered by teachers as they open up their schedule to hold the conferences.



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After student led conferences, starting June 1st, students will be asked to participate in a project determined by grade level. Seventh graders will create welcome handbooks for new students, eight graders will complete bridging speeches, ninth graders will complete capstones, tenth and eleventh graders will create websites to document current events, and seniors will be finishing up their senior projects. These projects reflect Grove's mission to provide students with educational opportunities that combine disciplines and encourage community participation. They are one of the many things that make Grove a unique and special place.

We are still working on final plans to celebrate our 9th grade students as they bridge to our high school program and ways to honor our graduating seniors. You will be contacted as soon as these plans are finalized.

Looking ahead to next year, there are many unknowns. The Grove School board, teachers, and staff are determined to continue to provide a quality Montessori adolescent education. A committee has been formed to plan a safe environment where students can have great academic achievement, and continue their work of self-construction as they become engaged and respectful world citizens in these unprecedented times. As more information becomes available, we will share these plans.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Andrew Christopherson

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