



**Tamarack**  
Waldorf School

# Town Hall Meeting

August 19, 2020 7:00 pm

- Planning for the 2020-21  
School Year



# Town Hall Meeting

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## **Tonight's Presenters**

- Martha Cannon, Board of Trustees President
- Martha Flores, Early Childhood Level Chair, Flower Garden Teacher
- Kim Bair, Lower School Level Chair, Fourth Grade Teacher
- Amy Marks, Upper School Level Chair, Eighth Grade Teacher
- Ceal Hunter, Learning Support Specialist
- Lora Poulos, Administrative Director

The background of the slide features several overlapping felt circles of various colors, including shades of blue, green, purple, and teal, arranged on a light-colored wooden surface. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

# Town Hall Meeting

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- **Meeting Topics**

- Delivery of our Distance Learning Waldorf Curriculum for 2020-21 School Year
- Preparing our Return to School Plan for submission to The City of Milwaukee Health Department for 2020-21 School Year
- Questions
- Next Steps

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# Tamarack's Promise

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Tamarack Waldorf School strives to implement the highest quality of Waldorf Education while distance learning.

Although we may not be able to offer parts of our regular curriculum, we promise to uphold the integrity of your child's education as best as we can during this time.

Maintaining relationships and staying connected as a community are important to us.





# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

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**Early Childhood**

**Presented by Martha Flores**

# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Early Childhood Distance Learning Experience

- Weekly class Zoom calls with teacher (AM & PM times will be made available)
- Weekly/Biweekly parent Zoom calls with teacher (Meeting will be recorded and sent to parents who were unable to attend)
- 1 audio recorded story per 3-week cycle available on Google Classroom
- 1 circle time (recorded or live) per 3-week cycle available on Google Classroom or Google Meet with printed version
- Painting supplies will be provided
- Drawing supplies will be provided
- 2-3 crafts available per 3-week cycle will be provided
- Beeswax available for modeling
- Nature scavenger hunt
- Parent Articles



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Example of Early Childhood Distance Learning Home Rhythm of the Day

### Daily Rhythm

- Good Morning Verses
- Circle
- Outdoor Time
- Snack Together: verse
- Drawing Time
- Outdoor Time
- Begin craft project
- Lunch Verse
- Story Time
- Rest Time
- Family Meal
- Bedtime Preparations
- Evening Reading Time

### Other Weekly Activities

- Weekly Evening Parent Google Meet
- Weekly AM & PM Class Google Meet



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Early Childhood Teacher Topics for Home Support

### The Waldorf Approach to:

- Painting at Home
- Drawing at Home
- Storytelling at Home
- Singing at Home
- Creating a Nature Table
- Creative Discipline
- The Importance of a Daily Rhythm
- Handwork at Home
- Baking and Preparing Meals Together
- Development of the Will
- Beeswax Modeling







# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

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**Grades 1-8**

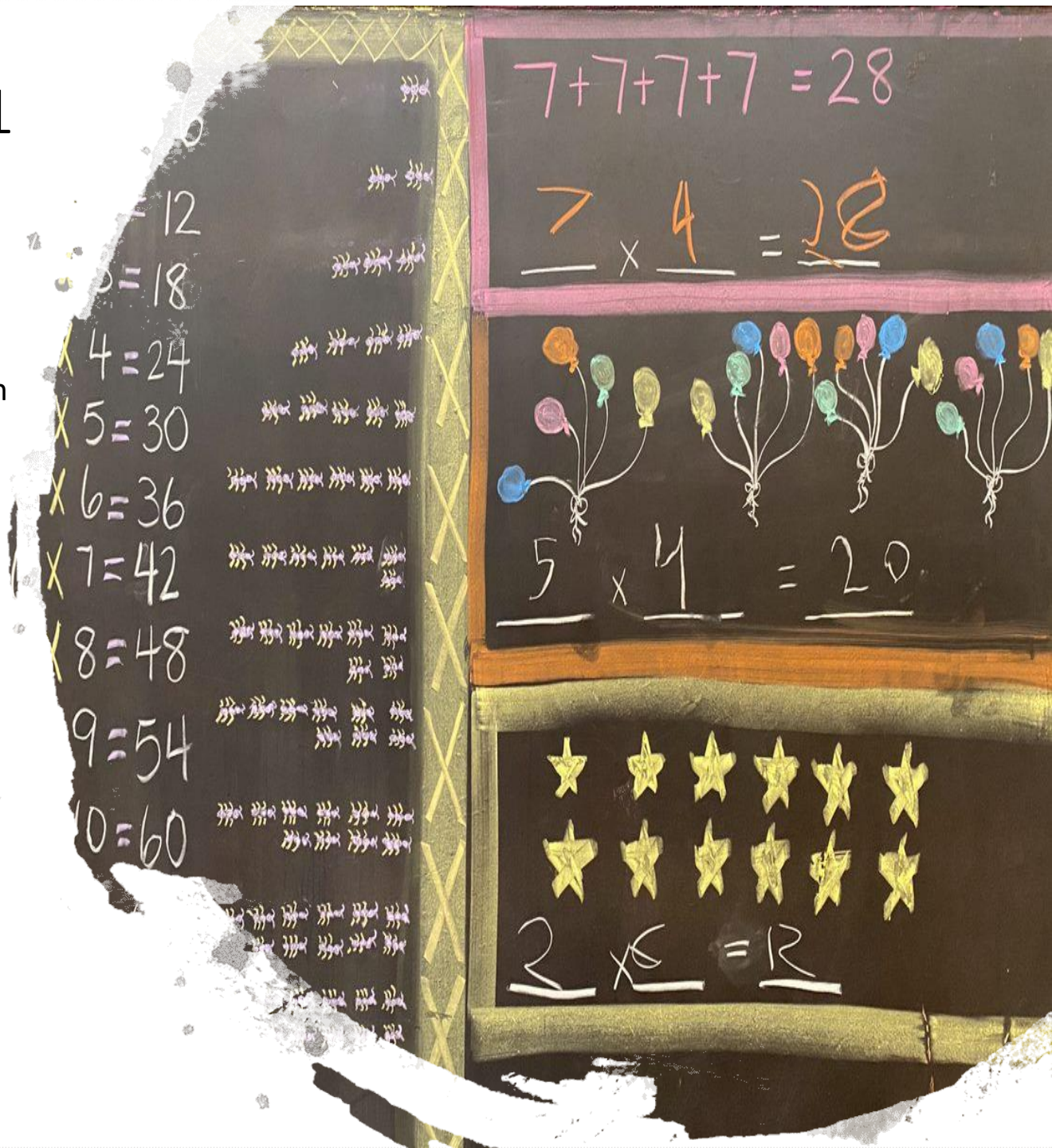
**Presented by Kim Bair**



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Grades 1-8 Distance Learning Experience

- Each grade has a regular staggered time each school day with the teacher, assistant, and classmates to maintain connection and to accommodate families with more than one Tamarack student.
- Attendance is taken at this time.
- An abbreviated class gathering is accomplished together, and the day's schoolwork expectations are reviewed.
- Grade 1 meets for approximately 20 minutes at 8:00 am.
- Grade 2 - 25 minutes at 8:30 am.
- Grade 3 - 35 minutes at 9:00 am.
- Grade 4 - 40 minutes at 9:45 am.
- Grade 5 - 45 minutes at 10:15 am.
- Grade 6 - 45 minutes at 11:00 am.
- Grade 7 - 45 minutes at 1:00 pm.
- Grade 8 - 45 minutes at 2:00 pm.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Grades 1-8 Distance Learning Experience

- Teachers may decide to stay virtual for additional time to answer questions that may arise and offer needed clarification.
- Lower grades students may be asked to show their schoolwork to each other and their teachers during the morning times with advanced notice.
- Upper Grades students may be asked to turn in work daily to Google Classroom in order to be counted present.
- Students also may be expected to turn in their work at the end of each block depending on the teacher's instructions.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Grades 1-8 Distance Learning Experience

- Additional specialty courses include Applied Arts, Spanish, German, and possibly Mindfulness. They are each scheduled at a specific time and day once a week. The students will have one language at a time with rotating blocks.
- At least one specialty class per three-week block will be regularly scheduled in real time with the whole class. The other two classes may be pre-recorded and posted in Google Classroom.
- The specialty teachers will each communicate their office hours for parent conversations and opportunities for one-on-one instruction as needed.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Grades 1-8 Distance Learning Experience

- Painting, modeling, music, form drawing, story times and/or skills building lessons may be integrated within the gathering times together or be supplemental video/audio recordings posted in Google Classroom and scheduled within the weekly rhythm.
- Additional support and instruction that some students receive including Title I, Learning Support, and Speech/Language continue in a scheduled manner to be shared within the first block of distance learning.





# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

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**Grades 1-8**

**Sample schedules**

**Presented by Amy Marks**



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

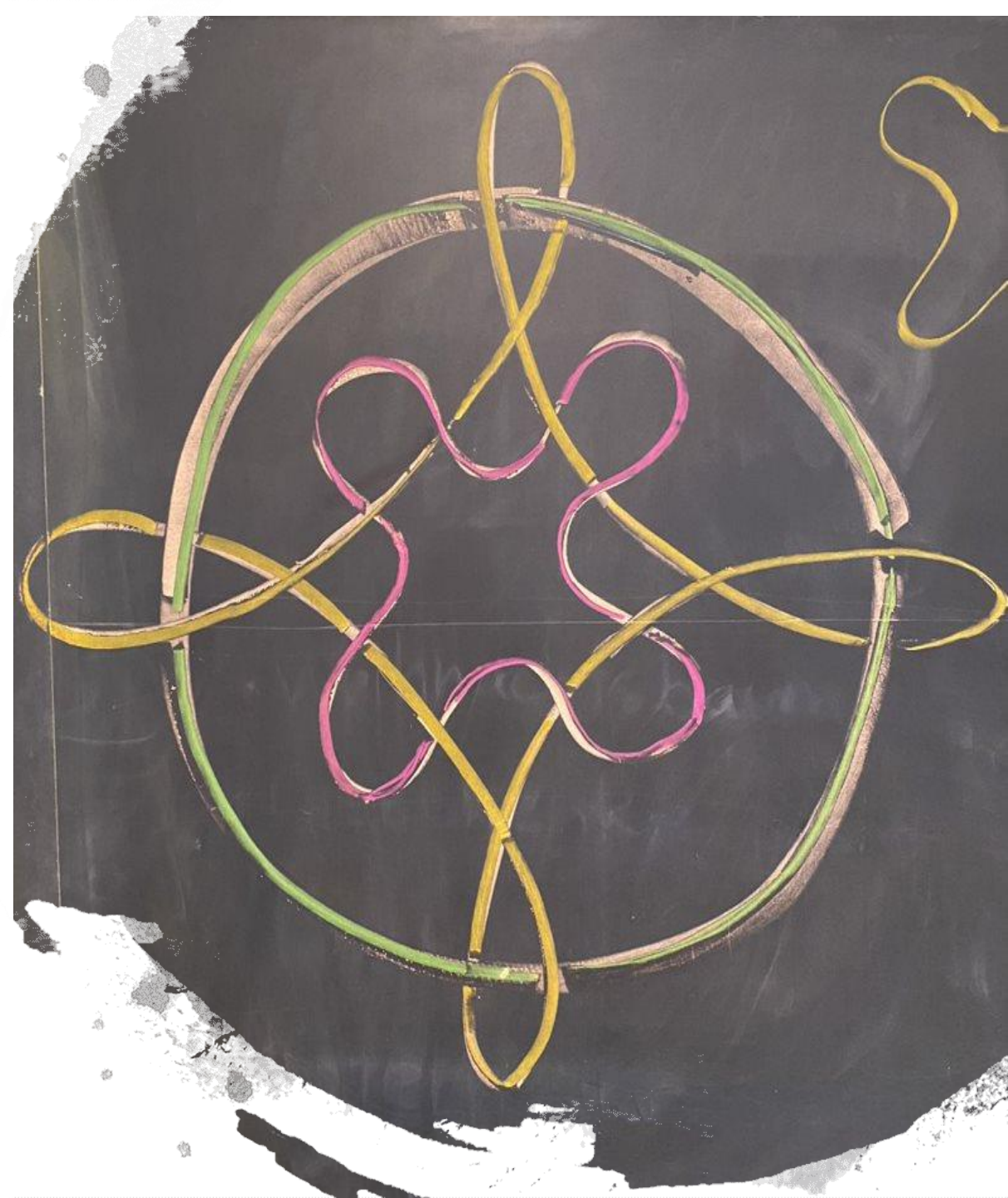
## General Example of Lower Grades Schedule

### Daily Virtual Gatherings may include:

- Attendance and Morning Verse
- Circle Activities
- Music
- Daily Rhythm Review
- Morning Lesson Presentation
- Lesson Work
- Teacher Availability during Lesson Work

### Other Possible Weekly Activities:

- Skills Strengthening in Math and Language Arts
- Form Drawing
- Painting
- Modeling
- Reading/Journaling
- Craft Projects
- Baking
- Nature Time
- Subject Coursework – Applied Arts, Spanish, German, and possibly Mindfulness



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Specific Example of a Grade 4 Tuesday in the Maps and Local Geography Block

### 9:45 am – 10:30 am – Morning Gathering

- Attendance and Morning Verse
- Circle
- Recorder
- Go over the day
- Review of Yesterday's Story/Lesson
- Introduce How to Map Your Yard
- Continue Cortez Family Story

### 10:30 am - 11:00 am – Lesson Work

- Teacher remains online while students do their morning lesson work to answer questions and offer clarifications.
- Children draw yard map and sculpt trees, bushes and other landscape features to place on the map.
- Hide treasure chest to prepare for drawing a treasure map tomorrow.





# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Specific Example of a Grade 4 Tuesday in the Maps and Local Geography Block Continued

11:15 am – 1:00 pm – Recess and Lunch

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm – Applied Arts

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm – Form Drawing Video

### Closing – Acknowledgements

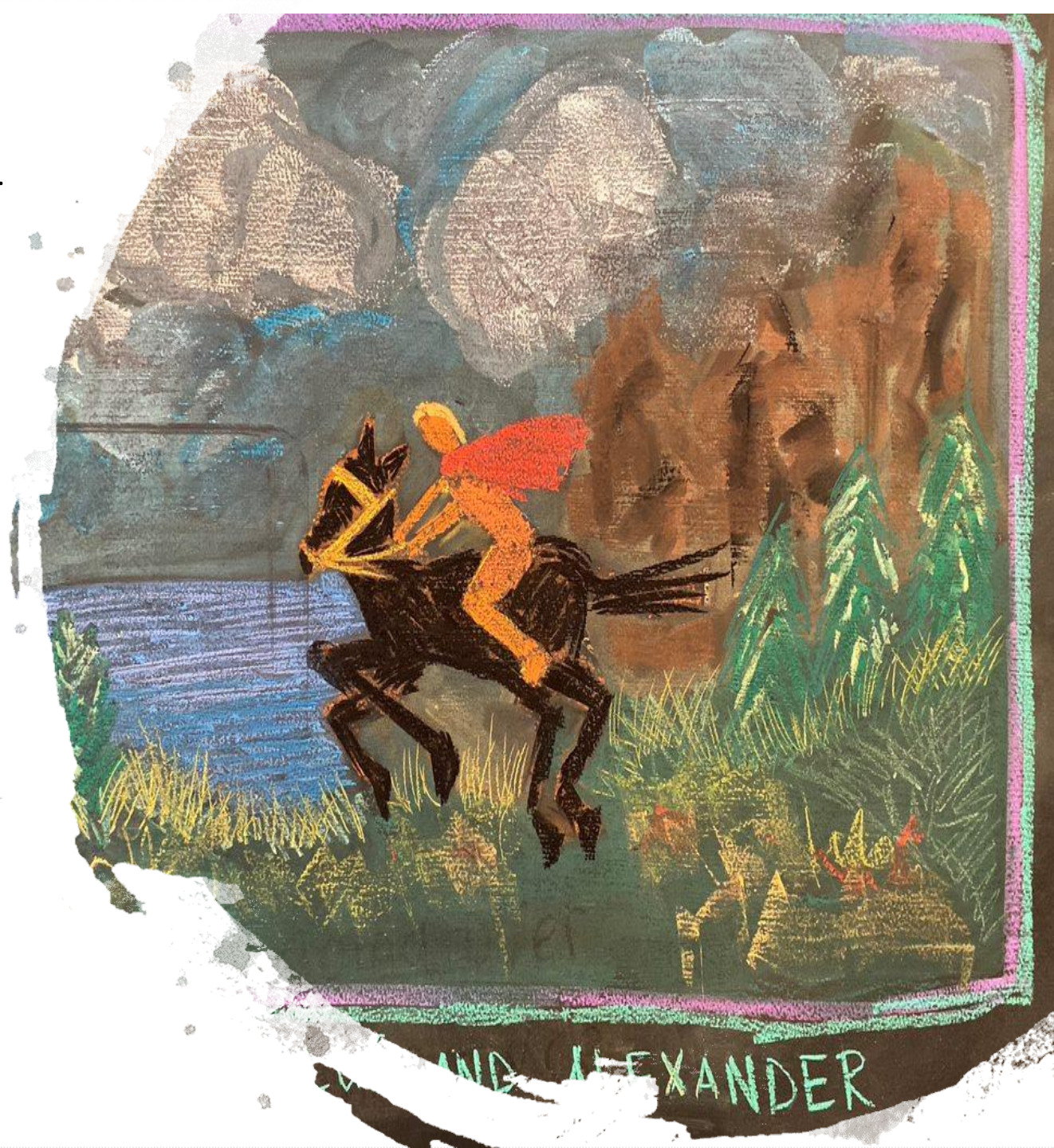
- Write the name of someone that you would like to acknowledge on your chalkboard to share tomorrow morning with each other.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## **Specific Example of a 3 Day Rhythm for the Grade 7 Africa: Geography, People, Culture Block**

Students meet daily at a regular afternoon time for a Google Meet check in and the teacher answers questions. Otherwise there is flexibility in the upper grades schedule for when students may complete their schoolwork as-long-as their assignments are turned in by 4 pm.

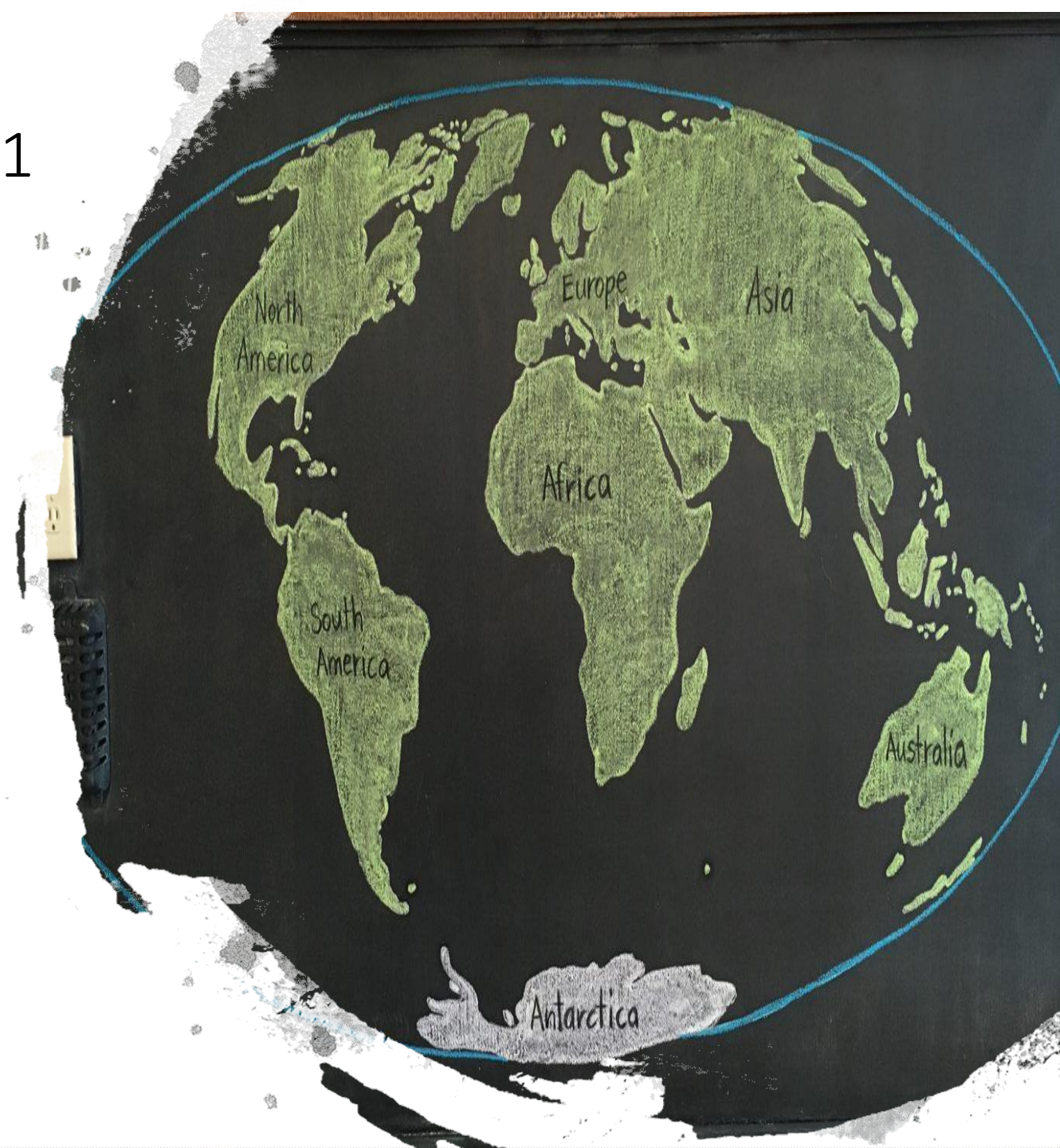


# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Specific Example of a 3 Day Rhythm for the Grade 7 Africa: Geography, People, Culture Block

### Day 1

- Listen to “Overview of Physical Geography of Africa” on Google Classroom and take notes.
- Using the reference map, draw a map of Africa in your main lesson book while listening to music from Africa.
- Do the daily Grammar worksheet.
- Start working on Jamie York’s “Making Math Meaningful” worksheet.
- Review recipe for Moosewood Collective’s West African groundnut stew to make for dinner on Day 4.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Specific Example of a 3 Day Rhythm for the Grade 7 Africa: Geography, People, Culture Block

### Day 2

- Listen to Chapters, 1-3, A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park and answer the question.
- Write or type a rough draft summary from “Overview of Physical Geography in Africa”.
- Complete art assignment on Tingatinga painting.
- Do the daily Grammar worksheet.
- Watch math lesson video for help with select problems on math sheet.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## **Specific Example of a 3 Day Rhythm for the Grade 7 Africa: Geography, People, Culture Block**

### **Day 3**

- Watch whiteboard notes/video/Mrs. Reyes lecture about “Regions of Africa”, take notes.
- Fill in countries of Africa on the blank map and paste into Main lesson book.
- Write final draft of “Overview of Physical Geography of Africa”. This may be typed or handwritten, but if typed it should be printed and pasted into main lesson book, with a relevant African border and title.
- Do the daily Grammar worksheet.





# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

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**Shared Agreements**

**Presented by Ceal Hunter**



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## **Teacher Shared Agreements with Tamarack Parents and Students**

- The 3-week block learning packets include materials needed to accomplish lessons, a weekly schedule for each week in the block, and any necessary additional instructions.
- A parent/teacher virtual meeting occurs for each block to further explain the upcoming block lessons and clarify daily expectations. Meeting minutes are sent to the entire class and posted in Google Classroom.
- Family Access to Google Classroom is confirmed and a supplemental instructional video on how to use Google Classroom and Meets is provided.
- Individual student check-ins with the teacher occur once a block.
- Additional support and instruction that some students receive including Title I, Learning Support, and Speech/Language continue in a scheduled manner to be shared within the first block of distance learning.
- Teachers convey regular office hours that they will be available to parents during distance learning.
- The weekly schedules from each week of the block and any additional instructions from the packets are posted in Google Classroom. Writing and drawing morning lesson examples are posted in Google Classroom.

# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## **Teacher Shared Agreements with Tamarack Parents and Students**

- Painting, Modeling, Instrumental and Form Drawing video recordings posted in Google Classroom. Read Aloud/Storytime and Music audio recordings also posted.
- Any Parent Enrichment Articles posted in Google Classroom.
- Teachers use Google Classroom as their primary form of distance learning instruction.
- Specialty teachers post lesson materials and recordings on Google Classroom of each corresponding grade and provide lesson materials in the learning packets for each block.
- Specialty teachers communicate directly to families and students their work expectations and available office hours.
- Students are linked to Google Classroom via the school provided log in credentials.
- Teachers strive to keep Google Classroom organized.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Parent and Student Shared Agreements with Tamarack

Tamarack Waldorf School will provide a single learning platform (Google Classroom) for all learning within the school which will include all your child's learning assignments.

### All Grade Levels:

- All need to participate. Attendance will be based on daily participation in teacher provided lessons. It is the responsibility of each family to report attendance through daily participation in the learning platform. Lack of participation will result in marked absences.
- Choose a good place to learn at home, remove distractions, and establish a routine.
- All parents need to have access to, and must access every school day, the Google Classroom platform. Important teacher communications will occur through Google Classroom and email.
- All parents must pick up each learning packet every block on the school assigned pickup date and time.
- If a student has a care plan or an IEP, accommodations can be made. Parents will work with the teacher to create any necessary accommodations.
- Parents will communicate with teachers and advocate for your child when challenges arise. Help will be available to students as much as possible. Be sure to ask your child's teacher if they need extra help from teachers and teaching assistants.
- All parents must access and regularly read school wide communications posted on Parent Square to remain informed of school happenings and receive updates from administration.

# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## **Parent and Student Shared Agreements with Tamarack**

- All parents need to have access to, and must access every school day, the Google Classroom platform. Important teacher communications will occur through Google Classroom and email.
- All parents must pick up each learning packet every block on the school assigned pickup date and time.
- If a student has a care plan or an IEP, accommodations can be made. Parents will work with the teacher to create any necessary accommodations.
- Parents will communicate with teachers and advocate for your child when challenges arise. Help will be available to students as much as possible. Be sure to ask your child's teacher if they need extra help from teachers and teaching assistants.
- All parents must access and regularly read school wide communications posted on Parent Square to remain informed of school happenings and receive updates from administration.

# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## **Parent and Student Shared Agreements with Tamarack**

### **Specific to Grades 1-4**


- Share the instructions and assignments that the teachers have communicated with your child daily.
- Support the students to complete their schoolwork and to be prepared to possibly show their schoolwork during the morning gatherings.
- Designate a safe and organized location for the children to store completed schoolwork since they may be expected to turn in their work at the end of each block.

# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

## Parent and Student Shared Agreements with Tamarack

### Specific to Grades 5-8

- Reiterate the clear and simple expectations that the teachers have communicated, so that the students can strive to meet them independently.
- All students need to have access to, and must access every school day, the Google Classroom platform. All teacher communications will occur through Google Classroom and email.
- Communicate with teachers and self-advocate when you are having issues. Help will be available to students as much as possible. Be sure to ask your teacher if you need extra help from teachers and teaching assistants.
- Depending on the length of distance learning, grades may be pass/fail. In order to receive a passing grade at least 75% of the assignments must be completed and turned in and maintain a 75% attendance record.



# Distance Learning Plan 2020-21

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**Further Details**

**Presented by Lora Poulos**

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# Distance Learning 2020-21

## Further Details

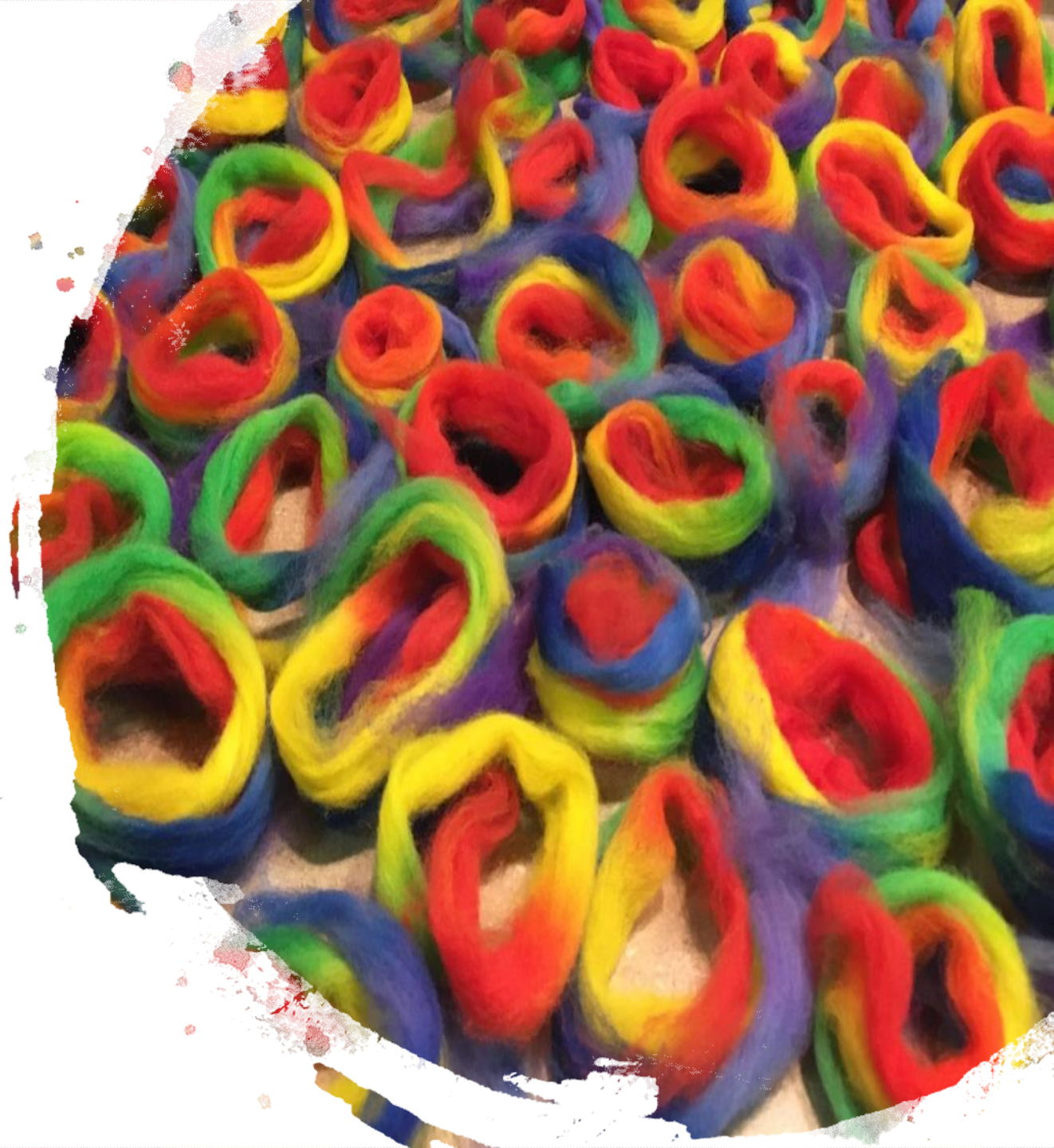
### Forms and Fees Days

- Parent/Guardian will be sent an online link to fill out back to school forms and pay supply fees during the week of August 24. Forms and fees will need to be completed before picking up distance learning materials.
- As is our policy, forms and fees need to be completed by the first day of school in order for a student to attend Tamarack. This will hold true during our distance learning program also.

### Distance Learning Material Pickup

- Early Childhood Classes – September 1, 1-4pm
- Grades 1-4 – September 2, 1-4pm
- Grades 5-8 – September 3, 1-4pm

Future packets will be available on the Saturday morning before the next 3-week distance learning block begins.



# Distance Learning 2020-21

## **Further Details**

## **Class Schedules**

- Teachers will provide additional details on daily and weekly schedules for their class.

## **Google Classroom Platform**

- Training on how to use Google classroom will be provided on September 2 at 7pm.





# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

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Re-opening our Building  
Presented by Lora Poulos





# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

## Reopening our Building

On July 31<sup>st</sup> the City of Milwaukee Health Department advanced its Moving Milwaukee Forward Safely COVID-19 health orders to Phase 4.1.

Under Phase 4.1, all public and private K-12 schools shall remain closed for traditional in-person pupil instruction and for extracurricular activities until they have COVID-19 safety plans approved by the City of Milwaukee Health Department; continued compliance with the plans are required or approval is revoked. Once a plan is approved a school will be able to operate at 50% capacity for in-person sessions.

Until a school has an approved plan, they must implement distance or virtual learning.



# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

## Reopening our Building

Reopening of school during the COVID-19 pandemic is a complex process which must take into consideration a myriad of health and safety concerns.



# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

## Reopening our Building

As we look forward to the start of the 2020-21 school year in our Early Childhood through grade 8, we anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to circulate.

Students, faculty and staff will be at risk for transmitting and acquiring infection.

It is important that everyone in the school community take steps to reduce transmission, particularly to those at high risk, while balancing the need to maintain a strong education system that effectively supports faculty, staff, students, and our community.



# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

## Reopening our Building

The City of Milwaukee Health Department has provided documentation and guidance around policies, best practices, and strategies schools must implement and recommendations they should consider to optimize education, promote health and safety, while mitigating risk throughout the school year.

Schools are required to submit two documents, a reopening plan as well as the completed MHD Safety Assessment Checklist for review and approval before beginning in-person learning with any phase they may begin.



# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

## Reopening our Building

Each submitted plan is required to have a minimum of three phases of education.

Phase A must allow for an all distance or virtual learning environment. During this phase, all school sanctioned activities such as field trips, festival gatherings, class gatherings, etc. are suspended.

Phase B must allow for a hybrid learning environment. Hybrid learning allows for in-person learning as a percentage of building occupancy which is determined by the current Moving Forward Milwaukee Safety Order. Hybrid learning can have more than one phase to allow for school flexibility based on the population served and physical environment.

Phase C allows for in person instruction, full day.

The Milwaukee Health Department will provide overall approval and guidance for schools to move from Phase A to Phase B to Phase C.



# In-person Learning Plan 2020-21

## Reopening our Building

Tamarack's Crisis Team is currently working on plans and documentation needed for submission to the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

We encourage our families to stay tuned to local and state announcements regarding Covid-19 and its implications on in-person instruction.

We will keep the school community informed regularly on our status.

**The health and safety of our school community is our highest priority in all plans we consider.**



# Questions

## **The following questions were submitted to ParentSquare before the meeting:**

How will the distance learning curriculum ensure that students are well prepared for high school, entry exams, and rigorous schedules?

Will there be any options for multi-age students to complete Waldorf curricula as a family unit? For example, is it possible for 4th/6th grade (or any levels) to have cross-curricular thematic blocks? Or more open-ended projects? Not worksheets.

Wisconsin COVID-19 rates are still not under control, especially in urban counties. Schools that have tried reopening in-person elsewhere in the country are showing increased cases among children and resulting community spread. Given these concerns, we think that at this time it is not safe for the children or the staff to be in-person and that distance learning is the only safe option. If, despite these dangers, the school decides to return 50% in-person, will we have the option to stick with distance-only for individual students?



## Next Steps

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If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher or the Administrative Director Lora Poulos

Teachers will be sharing their specific class block rotations and weekly schedules with families in preparation of the school year.

The recording and PDF version of this Town Hall Meeting presentation will be available on ParentSquare by the end of day Thursday, August 20.

Our next Town Hall Meeting will be September (all school meeting?)







Thank you  
and have a  
pleasant evening