

# Sagebrush 2020-2021 Fall Programs Guide

## Table of Contents

<b>Children’s House Program Guide: Fall 2020 .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Program Definitions for Classrooms.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Full time In Person Learning.....	2
Modified In-Person .....	2
Closed.....	2
<b>Program Definitions for the Club Room (Childcare) .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Open.....	2
Closed.....	2
<b>Program Descriptions for Classrooms .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Morning Students .....	3
Full day Students.....	3
Club Room.....	3
Sagebrush@Home (Distance Learning) for Children’s House Students.....	3
<b>Elementary Program Guide: Fall 2020.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Elementary Program Definitions:.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Full-Time In-Person .....	6
Large Group Hybrid .....	6
Small Group Hybrid .....	6
Full Distance Learning .....	6
<b>Program Definitions: The Elementary Club Room (Seasonal Camps) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Full Time in Person Learning .....	7
Hybrid or Full Distance Learning .....	7
Closed.....	7
<b>Elementary Program Description .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Lower and Upper Elementary Classrooms .....	7
The Elementary Club Room (Seasonal Camps) .....	8
Sagebrush@Home (remote learning for elementary) .....	8

## Children's House Program Guide: Fall 2020

### Program Definitions for Classrooms

#### Full time In Person Learning

- *All students can be in class at all times following typical school schedule*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children 5 and up, gently encouraged for younger learners*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*

#### Modified In-Person

- *All students can be in class on all scheduled days, but for abbreviated hours*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children 5 and up, gently encouraged for younger learners*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*

#### Closed

In the event of school closure due to COVID-19 or government mandate, all in person offerings, including the Club Room will be cancelled. Guides will begin a Sagebrush@Home (distance learning) program.

### Program Definitions for the Club Room (Childcare)

#### Open

- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children 5 and up, gently encouraged for younger learners*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*
- *Program offerings include a range of options between 7:30AM and 5:30PM*

#### Closed

In the event of school closure due to COVID-19 or government mandate, all in person offerings, including the Club Room will be cancelled.

### Program Descriptions for Classrooms

The Children's House will be opening for in person learning starting September 1, 2020. We are fortunate to have the physical space to follow health and safety guidelines as we now know them with students on campus Monday through Friday, supporting working families in the process. As we assessed our spaces this summer, reviewed guidelines from the CDC, DOH and DCYF, and began creating our Health and Wellness policies, we could see that we had the ability to re-open while meeting, and often exceeding, those requirements. Our goal is to offer an authentic, in-person Montessori classroom experience for our youngest learners when that is possible while following the current safety protocols and to be ready for a transition to distance learning via Sagebrush@Home in the event of government mandated closures.

### Morning Students

Our morning students will be scheduled to start school on a staggered return schedule, allowing time for staff and students to become acquainted with one another as well as new classroom practices such as social distancing and the wearing of masks. Our goal is to have all morning students back in school for **full time in-person** learning by September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Full day Students

Full day students (kindergarten) will begin initially as a half day program (**modified in-person**), with optional distance learning activities at home during the afternoon. Our goal is to offer full time in-person learning later this fall after we have settled into our new routines such as mask wearing and social distancing. Families with full day students needing full day care (through 3PM or 5:30PM) will get priority for openings in childcare.

Our Children's House Classrooms will have stable groups of up to 22 children. Both classrooms will have outdoor activity daily, as weather permits, utilizing green space and the playground on a rotating schedule, one group at time.

Classroom hours will be similar to previous years (9AM – 12PM) however we are working on adding in additional time to allow for health and wellness checks without taking away from the three-hour work cycle. We are also working to stagger program start times for those families with children in multiple programs. Classroom hours will be determined the week of August 10th.

### Club Room

The Children's House Club Room will open for childcare on September 1, 2020. Previously enrolled children will be invited to join the Club Room beginning on the afternoon of their assigned classroom start date. Care hours are the same as previous years, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM. The Club Room will have an after-lunch rest time as well as additional outdoor activity, as weather permits. Outdoor activity times will not overlap with classrooms.

### Sagebrush@Home (Distance Learning) for Children's House Students

If we need to close the Children's House campus at some point during the school year, we will begin Sagebrush@Home (distance learning) within 48 hours of closing. We are taking the lessons learned from last spring, including parent feedback from our distance learning survey and professional development for employees, to improve and implement authentic and supportive Montessori education. Our goal will be to provide parents and students with clear expectations to nurture and support independent learning, emotional growth, and a sense of well-being.

Sagebrush@Home will include:

- Regular contact with their guide via Microsoft Teams or Zoom
- Microsoft Teams and OneDrive for resource sharing
- Hand-made materials, materials on loan, and/or learning packets

- A schedule that has regular check ins and activities that support individual connections with staff and peers
- Scheduled time to communicate with Staff during regular school hours with flexibility upon request

Our observations this past spring made it clear that 20 minutes is the most amount of time a primary aged child should spend at a screen in one sitting. That said, when operating remotely, we depend on video conferencing to ensure student accountability and to maintain close contact for high standards. Children will be expected to be on screen for 2-4 events such as:

- A morning class meeting
- Small group lessons
- Midday class gathering
- Optional afternoon gathering for full day students
- Read aloud sessions

Here is an example of a Sagebrush@Home **daily schedule** for Children's House students. Please note that precise times have not yet been determined. We are working with staff to develop a schedule mindful of those families with children in multiple programs.

- **8:30 – 8:50AM Morning All Class Check-In**
  - Entire class will gather via Microsoft Teams
  - Opportunity for connecting with Guides and to see classmates
  - Lead Guides will offer work ideas and inspiration for the day
  - Opportunity for a group lesson such as grace and courtesy
- **8:50 – 11:00/11:20AM Morning Work Period and Lessons**
  - Time for purposeful, self-directed work at home supported by:
    - Individual and small group lessons throughout the week on Teams
    - Appropriate materials provided by the school and/or which can be made at home
    - Video tutorials and lessons correlating to available, physical materials to help aid you child's work and understanding at home
- **11:00 – 11:15AM Morning Students Send-off**
  - Gathering time for morning students, similar to what happens at school
  - This gathering may include stories, songs, books, etc. to conclude their workday.
- **11:20 – 11:40AM Circle Time with Full Day Students**
  - A gathering time for full day students, similar to what happens at school
  - Opportunity for group lessons involving age appropriate topics
  - Opportunity for checking in on work accomplished in the morning and making suggestions for afternoon work

- **12:00 – 1:00PM Lunch and Rest Time (Full Day Students)**
  - Lunch: Students should use this time to prepare their own nutritious and balanced lunch and enjoy it, if possible, in the company of siblings or parents to encourage interaction and conversation.
  - Rest time away from screens and academic work. This might include outside time, reading together, or lying down to read independently, movement/stretching, or other quiet activities
- **1:00 – 2:30PM Afternoon Work Period (Full Day Students)**
  - Time for purposeful, self-directed work supported by
    - Individual and small group lessons given throughout the week via Teams
    - Appropriate materials, provided by the school or made at home
    - Video tutorials and lessons correlating to physical learning materials
  - Work during this time should be focused on the work of the older child such as math, language, handwriting, maps, etc.
- **2:30 – 2:45PM Read Aloud as a Class (Full Day Students)**
  - Full Day Students gather online as a class while their Lead Guide reads a book with them, just like we do in school.
- **2:45 – Students are Dismissed**

## Elementary Program Guide: Fall 2020

### Elementary Program Definitions:

#### Full-Time In-Person

- *All students can be in class at all times following the typical school schedule*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*
- *Lower Elementary students present at the Firehouse*
- *Upper Elementary students at the Tri-Cities Ballet Academy (TCAB)*
- *Record keeping, work presentation, and curriculum structures planned and managed so that moving back to other instructional modes can be done with minimal disruption.*

#### Large Group Hybrid

- *Distance Learning with a structured daily schedule*
- *“Learning Pods” of 10-12 children one to two times a week for in person learning focused on core skills, digital skills, classroom culture, and record keeping.*
- *Optional small group interactions in Microsoft Teams reflecting in-person relationships related to collaborative work*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*
- *Lower EI at the Firehouse*
- *Upper EI at TCAB*

#### Small Group Hybrid

- *Distance Learning with a structured daily schedule*
- *“Learning Pods” of 5-6 children one to two times a week for in person learning focused on core skills, digital skills, classroom culture, and record keeping.*
- *Optional small group interactions in Microsoft Teams reflecting in-person relationships related to collaborative work*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*
- *Lower EI at the Firehouse*
- *Upper EI at the Firehouse*

#### Full Distance Learning

- *All in-person learning is canceled*
- *Distance Learning with a structured daily following the flow of a typical school day*

## Program Definitions: The Elementary Club Room (Seasonal Camps)

### Full Time in Person Learning

- *Before and after school care options as usual*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*

### Hybrid or Full Distance Learning

- *Program offerings include a range of childcare options between 7:30AM and 5:30PM for a limited group of students*
- *Social distancing is observed*
- *Masks worn by all adults and children*
- *Cleaning and hygiene protocols observed*
- *Wellness checks completed daily*

### Closed

In the event of school closure due to COVID-19 or government mandate, all in person offerings, including the Club Room will be cancelled.

## Elementary Program Description

### Lower and Upper Elementary Classrooms

Our elementary program will begin the 2020-21 school year following a **small group hybrid** plan.

In addition to a hybrid plan, Sagebrush has already begun developing a plan that allows for all elementary students to return full time to in person learning in physical spaces that allow for social distancing and other safety guidelines later this fall. It is our intent to spend the first few weeks of school gathering both remotely and in small in-person groups, in a manner that allows for comprehensive assessment, growth of a new classroom culture, and an introduction to daily expectations for attendance and work.

Our hybrid model will be a combination of distance learning (Sagebrush@Home) and a schedule of small group, in-person gatherings. At the beginning of September, students will be invited to attend small, in-person gatherings to learn more about classroom work, culture, expectations and basic remote learning skills as well as to foster important social bonds with guides and classmates. Once these small group orientations are complete, we will begin our full-day remote learning program. Students will continue to have a weekly option to attend a small, in-person gathering with their guide at school.

### The Elementary Club Room (Seasonal Camps)

During periods of Hybrid or Full Distance learning The Elementary Club Room will operate as a Seasonal Camp offering childcare during the typical school day in addition to the normal before and after school options. While on campus for camp, students will complete their Sagebrush@Home activities under the supervision of Club Room staff. Enrollment will be limited, and priority given to those that have previously signed a Club Room childcare contract for the 2020-2021 school year. Drop-in care will be extremely limited and must be pre-arranged to allow for proper social distancing and a stable cohort of students in the Club Room.

### Sagebrush@Home (remote learning for elementary)

Our observations this spring made it clear that 30 minutes is the maximum amount of time an elementary child should spend on a screen in one sitting. That said, when operating remotely, we depend upon video conferencing to ensure student accountability and to maintain our close contact for high standards. Thus, we expect children to be on screen for 3-4 daily events, for a total of 60-90 minutes per day, to maintain their participation:

Sagebrush Guides have created a daily schedule based on the normal structure of our classroom school day. We will use the online platforms Microsoft Teams and Zoom to communicate with students, in addition to physical resources sent home from the school.

- A morning meeting, including time to help students plan their day
- Morning work period with daily small group lessons in a variety of subject areas with explicit follow up work
- Optional online workspaces for small groups where collaborative work, research and passion projects can happen
- Read aloud or end of morning circle time. During this time children will be permitted to do handwork or sketch, so they can listen in, but do not need to look at the screen for the duration of read aloud
- Lunch and outdoor play time
- Afternoon work period where students will be guided towards independent follow up work based on personal interest or the lessons from the week. This will include a required silent reading time
- An end of day circle
- A once weekly opportunity to attend a small group, in person session at school during a full work period

Here is an example of a Sagebrush@Home **daily schedule** for elementary students. Please note that precise times have not yet been determined. We will plan a schedule with staggered start times for those with children in multiple programs.

- **8:15AM Children log into to Microsoft Teams and review their schedule for the day and star their record book.**
- **8:30AM Morning Circle Time**
  - Review schedule for morning lessons

- Provide general notes or group information
- Each child will be dismissed after sharing their first work with the Lead Guide
  - Will they be working in a Teams breakout room?
  - Will they choose a work period away from the screen and work in their home or outdoors?
- **8:50 – 11:30AM Morning Work Period and Lessons**
  - Each child will receive a minimum of three lessons per week
  - Children not in lessons are working at home independently, are in Teams breakout rooms in small groups, or may have a pre-recorded video to watch
    - Students working in Teams breakout rooms will be visited by the Lead Guide and Classroom Assistant throughout the morning, just as we would check in with students during the work period at school.
- **11:30AM *Optional* All Class Check-In**
  - Just as we meet as a whole class before lunch at school, this is a time for students to touch base with the Lead Guide about the morning work period. It may also be used for:
    - An all class presentation or discussion
    - For students to deliver presentations or give performances
    - For an all class activity such as yoga, singing, or educational games
- **12:00 – 1:00PM Lunch and Silent Reading**
  - This will be a full hour away from the screen for students and Guides. Just as when we are in school, students should use this time to prepare their own nutritious lunch, followed by 20-30 minutes of silent reading. Some children may choose to spend a portion of this time outdoors as well, but it is important to read daily during this midday break.
- **1:00 – 2:30PM Afternoon Work Period and Office Hours**
  - Students are expected to continue their work into an afternoon work period. They may choose to work on their own off the screen or virtually with classmates. Additionally, the Lead Guide and/or Assistant will be available on Teams to address any questions or needs that may have arisen. Students can pop in and out as needed. This office hour includes, but is not limited to:
    - An editing meeting
    - Checking in about a problem
    - Reviewing concepts or offering guidance for follow up work
- **2:30 – 2:45PM Read Aloud as a Class**
  - Just as when we are in school, the Lead Guide or Classroom Assistant will read a book to the children, pausing for discussion as needed. Children can do handwork or sketch during this time, so they do not need to be looking at the screen the whole time.
- **2:45 – Students are Dismissed**