

## FAQs ABOUT MIS LEARNING

SY 2023-2024

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted all schools to move away from brick-and-mortar classrooms to digital classrooms. Although the pandemic still exists, businesses and educational institutions have begun to return to pre-pandemic normality. Having learned through experience that schools can serve learners with a combination of online and onsite methods, MIS continues to deliver its brand of education through blended learning and remote learning programs.

### ***THE BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM***

In *blended learning*, lessons are primarily delivered face-to-face (onsite) with technology enrichment. This means that students come to school regularly for class discussions and activities. The onsite classes are enhanced by tasks in the MIS digital classrooms which students need to accomplish as part of scholastic performance. These asynchronous tasks include seat work, projects, assignments, individualized work and quizzes. Major tests may also be given online. In addition, weekly synchronous classes (real-time online classes) will take place for Physical Education and Homeroom where applicable.

Onsite classes for elementary and high school will last for 4.5 hours on Mondays till Fridays, except Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, learners stay home to accomplish their online asynchronous tasks and do PE zoom classes. This is what we call *Home Study Day*. This day can also be used for scheduled special activities, such as lab work.

Preschool/kinder onsite classes will take place on Tuesdays till Fridays and last 3 hours a day. Below is the general schedule of classes:

Department	Time	Onsite Days	Home Study Day (online day)
<b>MCH</b>	AM: 8:30 – 11:30 PM: 12:00 – 3:00	Tuesdays till Fridays	Monday
<b>Elementary</b>	9:00 am – 1:30 pm	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	Wednesday
<b>Junior High School</b>	11:00 am – 3:30 pm	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	Wednesday
<b>Senior High School</b>	11:00 am – 3:30 pm	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	Wednesday

**Classes in all levels will begin on August 1, 2023.** During the first week, teachers normally conduct class orientations. Formal lessons normally begin in the second week of August.

Below are some of the most commonly-asked questions about blended learning:

### **FAQs about Blended Learning**

- Where and how will blended learning be conducted?

Blended learning will take place primarily in the school campus where face-to-face classes will take place. Students will meet their subject teachers and classmates for discussions, presentations and other activities. In elementary and high school, a subject period can last from one or two hours.

These onsite experiences will be supplemented with online seat work, assignments and other tasks that students can view in the digital classrooms (DC). Students navigate through the DC platform and click on their classes to open topics, assignments, etc. They then accomplish the activities at their own pace and submit them through the DC. This is why blended learning is said to be technology-enriched.

Children from 2.5 till 5 years old will be combined in onsite mixed-level classes that will last 3 hours a day. Their asynchronous tasks are designed to follow up work done in school, and need to be done with a parent.

- [What about quizzes and exams?](#)

Quizzes will be available through the DC. Major exams will be left to the teacher's discretion as to whether these will be taken online or onsite.

- [What about books and materials?](#)

Books are not necessary for blended learning, because material and links will be uploaded into the digital classroom. Students are expected to download these materials if necessary, especially if these are needed for onsite discussions. Special onsite subjects (such as robotics) may require books.

Blended learners may bring personal items such as ball pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Gadgets may be brought depending upon need, but students must be mindful of possible losses. Teachers will announce the need for special materials (such as an illustration board) ahead of time.

- [What about uniforms?](#)

Blended learners at all levels must come to school wearing the standard uniform shirt. This can be paired with comfortable bottoms (jeans, joggers, slacks) and shoes (e.g. sneakers; closed shoes). A specific colored headband or bandanna will be required during the Practical Living subject. When a change of clothes is needed, students are expected to change into another uniform shirt.

- [What about snacks/lunch?](#)

A 30-minute period will be allocated for snack/lunch time. Students must bring their own food and drink. High school students are expected to have had lunch before coming to school.

- [Are there after-school clubs?](#)

MIS-sanctioned after-school activities, such as swimming and badminton, are voluntary and held off-campus. Students are given the freedom to join off-site clubs such as football and basketball. In-campus clubs may also be run during the school year.

- Fees include technology services. What are these?

Technical services include monthly fees for our It infrastructure -- all the service fees needed to maintain and host the digital classroom sites and content, the monthly fees for digital classroom technical management and troubleshooting, and the monthly fees for our school internet, enrollment system database and upkeep.

## ***THE REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM***

2020 marked a radical change from previous school years. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, schools moved from brick-and-mortar classrooms to virtual or digital classrooms. Nowadays, remote learning continues to be the go-to mode of learning for students who:

- Live in geographical locations far from school
- Have medical concerns that prevent them from attending school regularly
- Have mobile lifestyles and travel frequently

In remote learning, MIS continues to adhere to its vision of the learner – an individual who helps himself so that he can help others. The flow and activities of the remote learning program are meant to develop students who are capable, accountable and knowledgeable, with the strong sense of self they will need to thrive in the real world.

## **MONTESSORI IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT**

The structure and the content of the remote learning program are guided by the following Montessori principles:

- **HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT**  
Montessori believed in the total development of the child, and this is reflected in the learning areas. Our academic subjects are:
  - languages (English and Filipino)
  - math
  - science
  - social studies (history and geography)

These subjects are balanced with integrated non-academic activities like:

- physical fitness or movement
- values education
- performing arts
- visual arts, and
- technology and livelihood education or home economics

The daily schedules of activities are curated properly to ensure a healthy balance of light and serious tasks to keep learning fun.

- **STRUCTURE AND ORDER**  
An online program that is simple, well organized, with clear and predictable navigation, builds learners' confidence in their ability to succeed. In addition, materials and activities are presented in a logical and coherent order so that learners are better able to make connections between topics and integrate their knowledge. Such connections

contribute to learners' ability to think critically and apply their knowledge to new situations.

- **INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION**

The remote learning program offers a variety of intellectually stimulating materials and activities, including both academics and non-academics, to stimulate all types of learners and facilitate new learning. The prepared sequence of activities helps connect new learning to old knowledge. Learners are challenged to try out their ideas through artistic interpretation, reflection and live discussions with teachers and classmates.

- **RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM**

The 24/7 availability of the content in the digital classroom (DC) means that all students are free to learn at their own pace within a reasonable period. Learners can keep reviewing text, slides and videos in the DC to help them understand the material. Downloadable activities allow work to be done offline. Deadlines are staggered to give enough time for students and parents to submit assignments.

- **BEAUTY**

Learners generally experience positive emotions when they see visually appealing images. Carefully selected, beautiful images and sound can spark learners' interest in the subject matter. Lessons and activities are prepared carefully, incorporating a wide variety of appealing stimuli to ensure an inclusive environment for diverse learners.

- **REAL EXPERIENCES**

As much as possible, lessons will include extension activities that are relevant, hands-on, and meaningful, such as cooking, gardening, arts and crafts and physical fitness.

- **COMMUNITY**

Group video calls per subject allow for live discussion, camaraderie and social interaction. Learner-to-learner and learner-to-teacher interaction occur through discussion forums, group chats in the digital classroom, and partner and group activities. Parents of young learners get in on the action through parent-child-teacher video calls which are a lot of fun.

## **TYPICAL SCHEDULE**

Our approach uses a combination of synchronous and asynchronous classes. Each day features one academic subject. The synchronous class is conducted on zoom, and allows students to interact with their classmates and subject teacher. The zoom class is followed by asynchronous, or self-paced activities that are viewed or downloaded from the digital classroom. The total learning time (both zoom and activity work) is estimated to be 6 hours a day. Below are the typical number of minutes of a daily synchronous session:

Daily Zoom class (synchronous class):

- Preschool/kinder -- 40 minutes
- Elementary (Grades 1 till 6) – 40 minutes to 1 hour
- Junior High (Grade 7 till 10) -- 1 hour to 1.5 hours
- Senior High (Grades 11 and 12) – 1 to 2 hours

Depending on the student's time zone, zoom sessions may take place at 9:00 am or at after 1 pm.

## Senior High School schedule

Grades 11 and 12 have more subjects in their curriculum, which means that each day features more than 1 subject. This also means more zoom sessions. Below is a typical weekly zoom schedule for a senior high student taking the Accountancy and Business Management track.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Oral Communication zoom class	Practical Research I zoom class	Principles of Marketing zoom class	Empowerment Technologies zoom class	Fundamentals of Accountancy Business and Management 1 zoom class
Asynchronous activities	Asynchronous activities	PE zoom class	Asynchronous activities	Asynchronous activities
Earth Science zoom class	Komunikasyon sa Pananaliksik sa Wika at Kulturang Filipino zoom class	General Mathematics zoom class	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Literature from the Phil. And the World zoom class	Organization and Management zoom class

### **HOW PARENTS CAN HELP**

MIS has always stressed the importance of the home-school partnership. Now, more than ever, this partnership is vital to the success of the remote learning program. Today's generation of youngsters have never known a world without internet. Online learning will appeal to their instinct for using gadgets and navigating the World Wide Web.

Of all educational age groups, it is the children from 3 – 6 years old that most need experiential learning. They learn by doing. Montessori always stressed the need for young learners to learn by doing. Because of this need, pupils in the preschool, kinder and the lower elementary grades, as well as children with special needs, require more extensive parent supervision in reading and understanding text, viewing videos and slides, carrying out the tasks, and managing and troubleshooting equipment.

Older learners need minimal adult supervision in managing mobile devices and navigating around the digital classroom. From experience, older learners also need reminders in accomplishing their tasks!

However, regardless of age, learners will need adult support. Below are some ways in which parents can help:

- Establish a regular weekday routine of waking up early, eating and getting dressed for school. After school work is done, proceed with rest and downtime. Have learners get into a regular bedtime routine.
- Set up a regular study area at home, with a table, adequate lighting and ventilation.

- Ensure that equipment (laptop or desktop, headphones with mic, printer) and internet connections are in good working order. Video conferencing apps such as Zoom, Google meets, and Skype must be downloaded ahead of time.
- In households with more than one learner, check which sibling needs the most screen time, and manage others' needs accordingly.
- Make allowances for diverse needs and pacing
- Take note of submission schedules and check on completion of tasks
- Communicate with teachers in the event of sickness or internet problems.

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