



# Early Childhood Division Fall 2020 Learning Plan



**Concordia**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SHANGHAI  
EARLY CHILDHOOD

# Fall Learning Plan

We all experienced first-hand the influence of COVID-19 on the way we taught and learned this past year. These challenging times highlighted our character and our care for each other, as well as areas where we need to grow. An essential part of Concordia Shanghai's educational experience is "Learning Wrapped in Relationships." Below you will find our education principles and guidelines for learning, designed to ensure that our student-teacher relationships and learning opportunities remain strong, whether we are together on-campus or in different locations learning together.

The following information will help you envision what your child's learning experience will be like next year, whether they are on campus or physically distant from our school. We are working diligently to ensure that we carry out our mission of viewing each child as a gift from God, entrusted to us by parents, to educate holistically in a nurturing environment. We will continue to provide comprehensive and challenging opportunities for students to grow as insightful learners, active global citizens, reflective spiritual beings, effective communicators, and principle-centered leaders and team members.



## Message From Our Principal:

There are many joys in early childhood education. The giggles, joy, and creativity that young children have contribute to their ability to be resilient and learn in unique and creative ways. Being together in the classroom environment allows children to be natural and imaginative learners. We hope for a school year of new beginnings and time to be together.

Distance Learning due to situations that arise in our world today can be challenging, but also very rewarding. When necessary, time dedicated to Distance Learning may be needed and will allow students and family members to benefit; resources provided by and regular consultation with faculty will provide the assistance needed for parents to appropriately support their child in Distance Learning situations that may arise.

**For students in our Early Childhood Division, we commit to the following principles which guide our plans:**

- ▶ We will design experiences that ignite curiosity, exploration, and learning through a variety of play-filled invitations
- ▶ We will engage students in activities that coordinate with the curriculum and provide hands-on, multi-sensory engagements that enhance learning.
- ▶ We will utilize relationships between students and teachers as a foundation for engagement that supports learning.
- ▶ We will encourage the acquisition of language learning in ways that engage students and adults in meaningful activities.
- ▶ We will utilize research-based practices that compliment Concordia's mission and age-appropriate learning expectations for EC students.

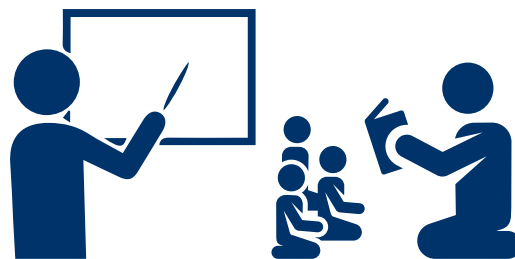
## What does this mean for students in Shanghai on Concordia's campus?

**For these students, a typical in-classroom, face-to-face learning experience will occur.**

- ▶ Students will engage in a high-quality, full face-to-face learning experience with one expat Teacher and Teaching Assistants (Two Teaching Assistants in Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten, and One Teaching Assistant in Kindergarten)
- ▶ Students will participate in Mandarin and Music and Movement classes that follow the same schedule as last year. Students will have a modified Art class, due to cleaning requirements; additional Art experiences will be woven into the Homeroom classroom as well as held in the EC Art Studio
- ▶ Students will experience a modified ELL and Learning Support program initially as faculty are available and transition to regular programming, as needed, as additional faculty return to Shanghai

### Delivery of Instructional Resources and Activities:

- ▶ For those students in Shanghai and attending school on Concordia's campus, full face-to-face learning with an expat Teacher will occur with regular support from Teaching Assistants
- ▶ Seesaw will continue to be the primary platform for accessing learning activities completed and documented within the typical school day.



### Full Face-to-Face Learning Experience

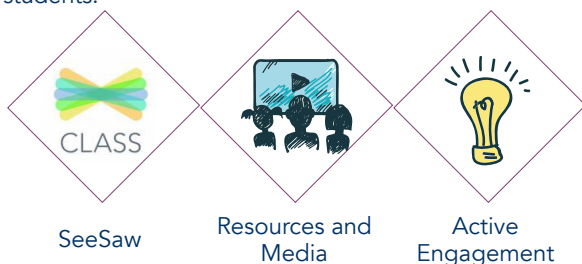
- ▶ One expat Teacher and Teaching Assistants (Two Teaching Assistants in Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten, and One Teaching Assistant in Kindergarten)

## What does this mean for students who are not yet in Shanghai on Concordia's campus?

Students who are not yet in Shanghai will have the availability of Distance Learning resources and programming that are led by Concordia expat faculty. The following details highlight the EC Distance Learning Program. These details also highlight information that could be utilized should on-campus learning be paused at any point, such as due to Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease or a resurgence of the virus pandemic.

### Learning Schedule & Parent/Family Expectations:

- ▶ All posts for the day will be shared by teachers on SeeSaw as early as possible, at the latest by 9 AM, Shanghai Time.
- ▶ It is estimated that for students and families to engage in full use of the hands-on resources and videos, they may experience up to 1-2 hours per day of active engagement.
- ▶ Active engagement happens when a child and caring adult utilize learning resources together. This involves much use of language, questioning strategies, and serve-and-return conversations that assist student learning and critical thinking. Hands-on learning occurs between the child and adult.
- ▶ Specialist subject areas will be shared in compliment to resources provided by Homeroom Teachers. Frequency of Specialist subject areas is determined by the situation presented for Distance Learning and age-level of the students.



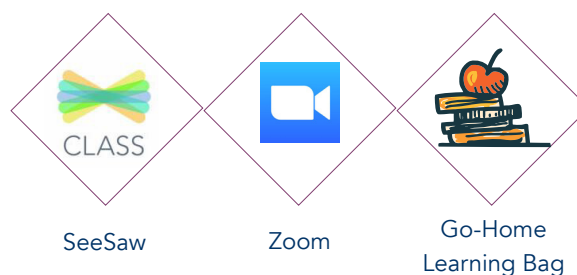
- ▶ Each student will need the following to find success in the learning experiences:
  - ▷ Access to a reliable Internet-connected device, such as computer or iPad
  - ▷ A responsible adult (preferably English speaking) to help facilitate learning and provide meaningful engagement
  - ▷ A dedicated place to focus on their learning experience, such as a small table, a dedicated place on the floor with comfortable pillows, or at a kitchen/dining table



Questions? Contact [EC.office@concordiashanghai.org](mailto:EC.office@concordiashanghai.org)

### Delivery of Instructional Resources and Activities:

It is important to note that children need meaningful engagement with a caring adult during a time of distance learning to facilitate their optimal learning. Seesaw serves as Concordia's hub for accessing the hands-on, active resources provided in EC; videos are supplemental and also shared via Seesaw. Only watching the shared videos will not provide a high-quality experience for the students.



- ▶ Seesaw is the primary platform for accessing student learning resources and activities.
- ▶ The use of videos will happen daily and may include a video greeting from the teacher, Morning Message, or tutorial introduction of a topic or learning activity.
- ▶ Activity PDF documents will be developed by teachers and shared with students/families for ease of access and use. Families may choose any variety of activities offered in the "buffet of resources" the teacher provides.
- ▶ Connections via Zoom will occur so students will be able to have "live" and regular interactions with teachers and peers. This will occur weekly in the following methods:
  - ▷ Individually with teacher and student/parent
  - ▷ Small group with teacher and small number of students
  - ▷ Class gatherings with teacher for sharing and enjoyment (such as singing and dancing)
- ▶ All students will have a Go-Home Learning Bag with supplies they will use during the learning opportunities provided in Seesaw.

### Looking Ahead At Learning For All EC Students:

The mind of a young child is creative, imaginative, thrives on predictable routine, and grows when age-appropriate engagements with peers and caring adults are present. Whether your child is physically present on campus at Concordia, or engaging in Distance Learning, know that we strive to provide research-based practices for all learners.

Concordia values relationships; these relationships are wrapped in learning, and learning is a partnership between families, teachers, and the school. As you prepare to start a new school year, look for opportunities to stay engaged, connected, and in strong partnership – your child will see the rewards!