



## **BVWS Principles and Best Practices for BVWS Distance Learning**

Here at BVWS we remain philosophically committed to Waldorf education. This continues to mean creating learning communities with developmentally-appropriate activities that maintain human connection and meaningful, purposeful activities. During this evolving emergency situation, we are committed to educating our students through **BVWS Distance Learning**.

Technology is a helpful tool for learning at a distance. Our Waldorf learning activities will be as close to what we would do with children at school and maintain the close human connection between teachers and students. Some technological platforms that we may employ in a developmentally-appropriate way for this next phase of distance learning include:

- Audio/video conference calls that are real-time, live lessons delivered by your child's teacher.
- Recorded audio/video lessons with your child's teacher to allow for the different timing of home schedules.

### **Best Practices for BVWS Distance Learning**

#### *Learning Environment*

1. Students will still use colored pencils/crayons, Main Lesson books, art supplies, and all of our usual materials to complete lessons and will show teachers their work via photos or scans submitted by their parents.
2. Families will set up a dedicated learning space at home.
3. Families will maintain daily and weekly rhythms at home that are similar to the school schedule but shorter and more flexible in time.

#### *Technology as a Tool*

4. Parents will designate and monitor technology tools for BVWS distance learning lessons in a common area. Suggestions include the living or dining room, under parent supervision, rather than private access in a bedroom.
5. Students will be expected to turn in their work by the due dates assigned by their teachers. This work will be assessed with meaningful feedback as usual. Teachers will monitor engagement and progress of students through attendance in live, online lessons (where appropriate), through work submitted, and conversations with parents/children.
6. The approach of using technology as a tool is for *distance learning* in this emergency situation and is *not intended* to encourage online entertainment. We are only using the digital tools as a necessity in this unusual time to support our children's continued learning and sense of normality.

#### *Maintaining Teacher-Student Connection*

7. Class Teachers will offer regular office hours (video or phone calls, as appropriate) for scheduling one-on-one conversations.
8. Teachers will offer audio/video conference calls that are real-time, live lessons delivered by their child's teacher, as developmentally appropriate.
9. Teachers will offer recorded audio/video lessons with their child's teacher to allow for the different timing of home schedules, as developmentally appropriate.