



creative education for gifted and inquisitive children

Satori School Update – April 3, 2020

Dear Satori students and families,

I hope everyone is healthy and staying safe. It has been 15 days since we saw you last, which is really hard, but it is something that is necessary. For those of you that are familiar with the Kubler-Ross model, I think this situation fits well.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross was a psychiatrist who studied loss and developed the five stages of grief and loss. Most know these as the stages in losing a loved one, but the loss of the remaining school year and seeing our friends is definitely a form of loss, as well. The stages Kubler-Ross defines are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. I think I saw most all of these stages from staff and families at some point this week (including me). The reason I bring this up is to shed light to some of the behaviors you may (or may not) see with those around you and even with yourself. The hard part right now is everyone is at different stages and for different amounts of time. If you see your child lash out or burst into tears, please know where it might be coming from. Please remember that if you are in one of these stages, be kind to my staff as they are working hard to do what I ask. We are all in this together and need to show each other grace and acceptance. It is something Satori does so well and I, for one, am grateful to be going through this with all of you.

This week I have started reaching out to families and making ‘house calls’. If you have not heard from me this week you will hear from me sometime next week, for sure. It has been nice making those connections and I am gathering some really important information. Regina, Betsy and I will start jumping onto Zoom chats next week so we can say hi to everyone as well.

Here are some FAQ’s:

- **Did you see the article about “Zoom Bombing”?** Yes. I asked Chris if we were ok and this was his response:
 1. All our meetings are password based to prevent “zoom bombing”. This prevents the meeting being discovered and joined by URL. This was the primary vector for unwanted attendees.
 2. Zoom has initiated the following setting: *“Based on feedback from our education community, we are giving teachers more control over their Zoom virtual classroom. Starting March 31st, the Waiting Room feature on your account will be automatically turned on by default.”*
 - This setting requires that all attendees initially go into a waiting room/lobby. The host has to accept/allow them to enter the actual meeting. While slightly annoying for the host when people arrive late, it acts as a second roadblock to unwanted guests joining a meeting. Unwanted guests can find or try to connect to your meeting if the meeting email was shared or forwarded by someone who received it.
 3. There are some additional controls that can be enabled on the back end for safety, such as:
 - Not allowing a meeting to start until the host is there. By default, the first person into a meeting becomes the host, and host control must be seized from them.
 - Screen and whiteboard sharing can be set to allow only the host to share and present.
 - Hosts can force all users to join with audio muted and video disabled as an additional protection against unwanted noise or images.



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- **How is the staff holding up?** I was asked this question from almost all of the families I have talked with so far. Everyone is doing as best they can and trying to find the work/life intertwining balance. It can be hard at times and a lot of us are exhausted by Thursday (as I am sure most of you are, as well). They do love seeing everyone on Zoom a couple of times a week. I really appreciate how so many of you have been kind to the staff team as they navigate all of this, as it has literally been rearranging an entire year in a matter of days.
- **Any news on grading?** I received a survey from the state this week. They mentioned sending out some guidelines about grading and I am hoping to have more guidance on this next week.
- **What is happening with enrichment classes?** We are still in the process of figuring that out. I am hoping to have more information next week.
- **Is there a chance you will hold back a student from advancing to the next grade?** No. Every student will move forward to the next grade in August. There may be some holes, but the teachers will address that when school starts again next year.
- **How can I support the school?** If you have not given your Tax Credit money to the Charter and/or Private, now is the perfect time. We are also taking donations. They can be mailed to: Satori School, 3801 N 1st Ave, Tucson AZ, 85719. You can donate on #AZGives Day on Tuesday, April 7, and even make your own fundraising page. Read below for more information about that.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding while we continue to figure out this forever changing 'new normal'. I will talk to you soon,

Jo

Joanna Honea
Executive Director/Head of School
Satori School