



creative education for gifted and inquisitive children

Satori School Closure Update - March 27, 2020

Dear Satori Families,

Here we are at the end of our first week of Satori virtual engagement. We have learned so many things and yet there is so much more. As I have participated in many State-run webinars, it has become evident that everyone is pretty much in the same boat as us. Administrators are asking questions and yet no one has all the answers. Things are changing so rapidly that they have stopped recording webinars due to the information they give us changing, in some cases, every couple of hours.

I do want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding while our teachers try to navigate this new teaching style. The learning curve has been steep. I did not hire my teachers to be online teachers. I hired them to be engaging, group oriented, and socially-emotionally supportive teachers. They can still be supportive but the level of how to do that has changed and group work is very hard to navigate online. I have talked with some families that have children in other districts and it appears we are way ahead of the game. And I have had lots of questions sent to me and decided that if they have these questions, you might as well. Here are a few:

- **How do I keep my child from falling behind for next year?** First of all, EVERY child in the United States is going to be behind when school starts again. All we can do is what we can do. Don't worry about it. Teachers will catch them up, that is what they are good at.
- **How do I teach them, I am not a teacher?** No, you aren't their teacher. Don't try to be. Don't get frustrated with them. Remember this is hard on our children, too. All the research shows that students will not retain much of what they learn right now, but what they will remember is the connection their teacher made with them and that they are missed.
- **I have one of my child's teachers doing a lot and the other child's teacher is not doing as much. Why?** All of our teachers are in different stages of learning online teaching. Some have their own kids at home, are taking care of a parent, or are struggling with everything changing around them. The list goes on, please know they are doing their best. Their job is to "provide engaging opportunities to their students, but not teach them new material". That is direct from the state. Also know that teachers might try something out and find they need to change it. Please be flexible.
- **What about grades?** That is a great question everyone is asking and right now there are no answers. I will let you know when I find out.
- **Are we going to close for the year?** I have no idea. It is a day-to-day question that I also have, and I will let everyone know as soon as I find out.



creative education for gifted and inquisitive children

- **What about graduation?** I wish I knew. That is up in the air right now.
- **We are in the Private School. What do we do?** As of right now, we are running the Private School the same as the Charter School. Even Brenda is reading books and connecting with her students. If you are unable to pay your tuition, please contact me. If you can continue, the teachers can keep supporting your child and I can continue to pay them. The teachers are eager to connect with the students and some are working on their own classroom virtual morning meetings.
- **What if I left something at school I need?** Nate and Susan will be at the Private and Charter buildings every Wednesday from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. The buildings are technically closed so please call and they can set what you need outside; Private office: (520) 887-4003, Charter office: (520) 293-7555. We ask that you do not enter the building.

I will be sending out weekly emails to update families and answer additional questions. I am also assembling FAQ's for our Satori families. If you have any questions, please send them to me with the subject line "FAQ". I will answer as many as I can.

If you or your child would like to FaceTime with me, just let me know. I also will try and jump into an occasional morning meeting just to say 'Hi'.

I miss each and every one of you and can't wait to see you in person! Keep safe, wash your hands and be kind!

Air hugs,

Jo