

A publication of Sedona Charter School
K-8 Tuition-free Montessori School

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The Suzuki Philosophy



Some readers may wonder why we often play the same repertoire at our concerts and why older children always play with the younger children. In continuation of our series of the **Suzuki Philosophy** as it relates to language acquisition, we explore two more of the primary tenets that may clarify why you hear those Twinkles 100 times!

Repetition

When children have learned a word, they don't discard it but continue to use it while adding new words to their vocabulary. Similarly, Suzuki students repeat the pieces they learn, gradually using the skills they have gained in new and more sophisticated ways as they add to their repertoire. The introduction of new technical skills and musical concepts in the context of familiar pieces makes their acquisition much easier.

Graded Repertoire

Children do not practice exercises to learn to speak, rather they learn to speak by using language for communication and self-expression. In the Suzuki approach, students learn musical concepts and skills in the context of the music rather than through dry technical exercises. The Suzuki repertoire presents a careful sequence of building blocks for technical and musical development. This standard repertoire provides strong motivation, as younger students want to play music they hear older students playing.

Bohemian Night of the Arts

Sedona Charter School is proud to once again present Bohemian Night of the Arts. You won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to see first-hand the wide variety of visual and performing arts of our students. Join us Tuesday, March 5th promptly at 5:30 pm as we showcase their creativity and many talents.

Sedona Charter School's first Bohemian Night of the Arts was held in 2007 and focused on the 1920s Parisian café society. This year, students will be displaying a variety of visual arts in the classroom as well as performing throughout the evening. The night will offer a sampling of drawings, paintings, sculptures, theater, poetry, singing, and more.

The event kicks off at 5:30 pm in each classroom with "Art for Ransom" and refreshments for sale. Students will be showcasing and selling their individual art to raise funds for their classrooms. At 6:30 we will all move to the new Performing Arts Classroom to participate in a live auction of collaborative art from

each classroom. Following the auction, each classroom will perform for the audience, and the evening will wrap up by 7:30 pm.

To enhance the celebration, adults and children alike are encouraged to dress in their own interpretation of Bohemian attire. Parents, please check your school e-mail for a request to prepare home-baked goods to share throughout the evening. We encourage you to invite friends and family — this is your opportunity to get a taste of all the classrooms, show off your child's school and raise much needed funds for our classrooms by purchasing student art.



lower elementary >>>

Read to Succeed, Write to Grow

Our Lower Elementary students love reading and writing and are having great success with both. Book Partners is a favorite group activity that our students look forward to every day. During this time, students select a book within their designated reading level, retreat to a quiet area and read independently and silently for 30 minutes. Accountability for what has been read helps build reading stamina, comprehension and proficiency. So, this



quiet time is also used to take quizzes that check for reading comprehension and appropriate reading levels. Our students are thoroughly enjoying this time and every day they are quieter and more settled.

Each child's reading level is based on two separate assessments. A Dibels assessment is done with a teacher, and a Star Reading assessment is done on the computer. Each student can request an evaluation at any time if they feel their reading level has improved and would like the opportunity to read more challenging books.

The twin of reading is writing, and our students are enjoying journaling at the end of each day. Teachers select a daily journal prompt from a book of creative thinking ideas and students write their feelings about the prompt. Journaling on a regular basis is critical. It's writing that will never be judged. It's writing that doesn't require an editor. It's a place where students are completely free to write only for themselves. Some even draw pictures to go along with their writing. Many students and parents have indicated they are continuing this practice at home.

Daily reading and writing are crucial to student development. Self-expression through the written language is a long-practiced art



that is a valued life skill. We recommend all students read independently for 20-30 minutes nightly. Some families enjoy journaling together at the end of the day and then sharing with one another.

Reading and writing are sometimes taken for granted by adults who have mastered the skills—but looking at them from a child's perspective, they are skills of Herculean difficulty. Literacy is a complicated, integrative process that opens the world to every child who reads. It is our dream that students will choose a book over a video game or television program to fill their leisure time.

montessori >>>

Did You Know?

Our Middle School students play an integral part in compiling the school's annual yearbook.



There is no better memento of a student's years in school than a carefully prepared and edited school yearbook. At SCS, our Middle School students learn many life skills compiling and editing

pages for our yearbook. Their work begins in January so that yearbooks are available to students by the end of the school year.

This year, our Yearbook Committee needs your help. Everyone knows a yearbook is pretty boring without pictures of school events. We are requesting that parents not only take pictures at events, but also remember to e-mail them immediately after each event to laurie.altringer@sedonacharterschool.com for the school yearbook.

We need photographs of field trips, after-school events, classroom activities, and more. We'll be working diligently throughout the winter and spring and want to thank you for helping us make this year's yearbook awesome! **Please note:** Due to the volume of photos, we do not print photo credits in the school yearbook. Thanks for your help!

Yearbook Committee: Sonia, Zane, Hunter, Sedona, Lily, Natalia

upper elementary >>>

Achieving Excellence

Nearly one month into our second semester, we look forward to continuing our mission of helping every child achieve excellence through an individualized learning program. In Upper Elementary, we help our scholars strive for excellence by taking ownership of their learning. One way this is realized, is through students taking advantage of our organizational planner program. Students take responsibility for their assignments by planning out their work week every Monday.

New curriculum is presented each week in all subject areas, including Science, History, Geography, Writing, Reading and Math. These core subjects, as well as Arts, Foreign Language, Music and PE, provide an individualized and active learning environment which help children become independent critical thinkers and problem solvers. Excellence in Montessori gives children the freedom of choice for daily assignments during daily three-hour work cycles, as well as free movement around the classroom. Children grow in their ability to make careful, positive decisions that lead to their own success stories.



In Upper Elementary, we are guiding our students by providing tools and

strategies to use for their Arizona State tests this coming spring. Our fourth years are taking the AIMS Science test, as well as Writing, Reading and Math for AzMerit. Each student is receiving individualized science education through the use of Study Island and preparing exciting and thoughtful science projects for our annual science fair. They are also participating with fifth and sixth years in hands-on science experiments each week which include small and whole group instruction. This guided discovery of science allows natural learning to happen for each child; which is one of the core beliefs in Montessori education.

In addition, our students are also using the classroom Montessori manipulatives to help prepare for the AzMerit tests. Physical handling of these materials provides children with a deeper understanding of core principles in every subject area.

Currently we are studying different cultures of the world familiarizing students with foreign run governments, geography and history of other countries. Students are creating their very own continent maps as tools to recall both the geography of the area and the information learned about each country. These will be laminated and preserved for years to come.

By providing these diverse and valuable study aids, we know our students will be better equipped to learn, achieving excellence and success in all areas of life.



More Than Just a Bow and Arrows



If you arrive on Friday afternoons and peer into the outdoor cafeteria area, you will surely see some of our Middle Schoolers honing their

archery skills. By popular request, archery is continuing into the third quarter for our enthusiastic students. Through the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), an in-school opportunity aimed at improving educational performance among students in grades 4-12, both Lauren Rondeau and one of our parent volunteers (Lori) have been trained to be NASP Basic Archery Instructors.

Each Friday students are learning focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful in the classroom and beyond. Archery is deemed to be one of the top 3 safest sports when supervised properly and has the following benefits for students:

Increased Mental Focus and Self Discipline

Archery is a skill that takes commitment and time to learn, thus teaching kids the importance of perseverance. Dedicated students see their skills and focus improve, highlighting the benefits of staying committed and disciplined.

Improved Coordination

Archery requires careful interaction of the body and equipment working in harmony to hit a target. Kids must learn how to plant their feet and apply just the right pressure to release the arrow. This focus improves eye-hand coordination and balance.

Increased Confidence from Mastering a New Skill

Archery builds confidence by providing a fair challenge that is possible to master but takes time and effort. As archery skills improve, students see firsthand how their hard work is paying off, promoting greater self-esteem.

Relaxation and Stress Relief

The art of archery involves finding the perfect spot to release the arrow, watching it fly off to its destination, and hearing the target strike.

The whole process is an active meditation, forcing the mind to be calm and quietly focus.

As a result, archery provides a calming feeling unlike other popular sports that are rough on the body and may encourage aggressive behavior due to heated competition. Archery offers the perfect balance of challenge and exercise.

Teamwork and Sportsmanship

When properly introduced, archery can be a team sport that promotes individual confidence not only through personal achievement but also through the acceptance of other team members.

Communication is a key factor when working together as a team. Teamwork isn't about being the best, it's all about giving back to your team in any ways you can. *(adapted from www.campliveoakfl.com)*

Feel free to come watch us practice, but please don't step into our archery range. Safety is our number one priority! Fun is our second!



Letter from the President



It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.
- Albert Einstein

Hello everybody,

Even though Albert Einstein wrote this in the 1940's, he was ahead of his time. While rapidly growing technology enhances our lives, it's not without downfalls.

Unfortunately, cyberbullying is one trend that has increased significantly over the last decade with nearly 87% of youth witnessing cyberbullying. And sadly, 24% do not know what to do if it happens to them. As parents, we need to be aware of this trend and equip our families to deal with it.

The first line of defense is recognizing when something is just kids posting without thinking vs. actual cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a repetitive online harassment intended to cause mental or emotional disharmony in the form of inappropriate texts or posts. It takes place on social media networks, in chat rooms, on message boards and via text messaging.

There are some unique characteristics of cyberbullying that can be particularly dangerous. For one, cyberbullying can happen anonymously. Second, on certain social media platforms, a larger audience can view the message which may lead others to join in and escalate the problem. Another troubling aspect of cyberbullying is that the bully cannot see the harm their actions cause the target, thus there is no context to stop.

Studies show that 67% of kids who are cyberbullied do not report the event to their parents for fear of losing electronic privileges. Minimizing exposure to social media until your child is mature enough is one life of defense. However, this is easier said than done, because kids are always one step ahead of parents on social media. For example, as soon as kids know their parents are monitoring Instagram, they move to Snap Chat and the cycle continues.

<https://cyberbullying.org> is a government sponsored website that provides important tips for cyberbullying prevention and support. I urge parents to click on *resources*, then *parents* for a wealth of very helpful information. At the end of the day, we as parents must teach our children proper etiquette when using social media. In addition, we need to be actively monitoring and protecting our child's online presence just as we do his/her physical presence.

I hope that maybe one day our humanity will surpass our technology. -1995 Movie Powder

Respectfully yours,

Steven Paley, President
Sedona Charter School Governing Council

ask a teacher >>>

Q: Will You Be My Valentine?



Just when you thought the holidays were behind you, February sneaks up, and suddenly it's Valentine's Day. Here's a quick guide to school etiquette that won't break any hearts.

- When giving out cards, be inclusive and make sure every child receives one, not just your child's close friends. This teaches children to be polite and inclusive.
- Moms, put away the Pinterest app and let your child call the shots. Don't feel obligated to handmade valentines. Whether it's boxed cards or paper chain hearts, give your child free rein to decide. Remember, the holiday is about making people feel loved and special, not outdoing each other.
- Rethink candy. It's natural to want to give out candy for Valentine's Day, but due to allergy restrictions and healthy eating initiatives, consider non-food alternatives like pencils, erasers, stickers, tattoos, coloring pages or small toys.
- Nip bullying in the bud. Chat with your child's teacher and your children and suggest everyone write one nice thing down about each of their classmates on a paper heart. The hearts can be hung around the room, making each child feel valued and worthy.

Above all, let kids be kids; let them get caught up in the excitement of this holiday that celebrates kindness and love.

Katarina Houser



staff >>>

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our mission... *Our Montessori school challenges each child to achieve excellence through an individualized program, which includes a schoolwide musical strings program. We inspire a passion for learning, instill a sense of personal responsibility, and cultivate a respect for the environment and involvement in the community.*

around campus >>>

Calling All Scientists!

Our Upper Elementary and Middle School students are participating in a Science and Engineering Fair on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 1:30-2:30 pm at the school. Participation is mandatory for 4th, 7th and 8th grades and optional for 5th and 6th.

A science fair is the perfect way to showcase students' investigatory and research skills by displaying projects and giving students the opportunity to interact with parents, teachers and community members. However, we want to take it a step further this year by inviting our community to participate as well. We are looking for a few good scientists who can inspire our students by setting up exhibition

tables at our event with interactive activities and science-inspired games. If you or a scientist you know can help out, please contact Laurie Altringer via e-mail at laurie.altringer@sedonacharterschool.com.

The goal of a science and engineering fair is for students to have fun discovering new things and interacting with other scientists. The fair is an integral part of the entire curriculum and we want our students to begin thinking about their projects now.

Not only will their discovery and hypothesis skills be shown, but also language arts as they write the project report, reading as they research and prepare for their project, and math skills are reinforced through measurement or estimation of project amounts and quantities. A "whole curriculum" approach maximizes interest, increases participation, and underscores the significance of this event as a cross-curricular effort.

We encourage students to promote the science fair beyond the school by inviting family and friends to participate. For many parents, the thought of an impending science fair can be intimidating, to say the least.

looking ahead >>>

March 2019

Classroom Happenings
Ask A Teacher
Around Campus



Planning is key. Help your student develop a plan that spreads the work from February through the beginning of March so that no one is overwhelmed. Create an eight-week timeline and stick to it.

Watch your mail for updates about our science and engineering fair and the best ways to help your student experience the joy of exploration and discovery!



