

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

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The Art of Practice



Ask any professional musician, athlete, CEO or rocket scientist, what is the key to their success? The answer will include practice. At SCS, regular strings practice is a path towards self-discipline that goes way beyond music — it's a *skill* that has positive ramifications for personal fulfillment and lifetime success. We want our children and parents to understand that including strings practice as part of their daily routine is non-negotiable, just like brushing teeth or eating meals. We all live busy lives, but you can help your children learn valuable life lessons in grit and dedication by building regular, consistent practice into their schedules.

When a child comes unprepared to strings class, and is asked why they didn't practice, the answer is always... "I didn't have time." Thus, the first very basic rule in the Art of Practicing is *Schedule practice into your daily routine.*

Scheduling must suit an entire household. When do you have a lot of energy? And when does your child have a lot of energy? Try to organize practice at high-energy times, even if that means waking up earlier to accomplish focused practice in the morning. If a child is practicing at her lowest ebb, it is not a very pleasant practice, and becomes a dreaded chore. During practice, allow for short breaks and know when to stop altogether. If practice ends on a happy note, when something has just been accomplished that you can celebrate, your child is going to want to practice tomorrow.

For older students, I suggest a practice/homework rotation. Organize 30 minutes of studying and then 20 minutes of practicing. Studies show that for both activities you will be fresher, more attentive, process information faster and retrieve information better.

Drop the Scissors-Grab Your Phone

Box Tops for Education Goes Digital

The Box Tops for Education program is going digital with a new mobile app which allows parents to scan their store receipts and earn money for their school! Over the summer you may have noticed some participating brands have begun to change their packaging from a physical Box Tops coupon to the new Box Tops icon.

Here's how it works:

- Download the new Box Tops App (iTunes or Google Play) – it's free
- Create a username and connect it to Sedona Charter School
- Scan your grocery store receipt

Items with the new Box Tops label will be automatically credited to SCS.



How easy is that?! As soon as Box Tops supporters download the free app, they simply select Sedona Charter School and begin scanning store receipts, which automatically identify all participating Box Tops products and bonus offers, and

instantly add cash to our school's earnings online.

Note:

receipts must be scanned within 14 days of purchase. The app eliminates cutting, pasting and mailing, giving visibility to see how you are supporting SCS in real-time.

All participating products will feature a Box Tops for Education label on the packaging. Traditional Box Top coupons will remain on some products throughout the remainder of 2019. Just clip these as usual and turn them into the office or your classroom until they expire. **Better yet: most participating brands are allowing supporters to "double dip" by clipping unexpired traditional Box Tops AND scanning their receipts in the new mobile app!**

And even better, there's a sweepstakes for a school makeover until **November 15th.** Participants who scan a receipt containing at least one participating product between July 15 and November 15, 2019 will be eligible for the chance to win one of five \$20,000 makeovers for their school.

America's K-8 schools have earned \$913 million through the Box Tops program since it was founded in 1996. More than 70,000 schools use that cash to purchase computers, library books, art supplies, playground equipment and more. Schools can earn up to \$20,000 per year just by scanning receipts and/or clipping Box Tops.



lower elementary >>>

Teaching the Whole Child

In Lower Elementary, we are continuing to normalize the students, adding new materials, systems and work until the students have been introduced to all areas of our classroom: Math, Language, Grammar, Science, Geometry, Geography and History. Once students are normalized, their goal will be to complete the following daily: one language — either leveled readers, grammar, spelling, or parts of speech; a math; and a cultural work such as science (zoology/botany), geography, history, geometry and history. This month



we will be introducing literature circles and writing groups in the afternoon.

In our classroom students have a three-hour work period which allows them the freedom and time to do their work in a manner that is

suitable to their individual personalities and learning styles. They are free to work at a traditional desk, floor desk or rug which holds space for their developing bodies. We expect all students to complete their work during this time and will not be sending home homework.



Montessorians at the Lower Elementary level believe that “homework” is work in the home. We would like to encourage you to have your students help around the house. They can do “beautification jobs” like washing dishes, sweeping, vacuuming, dusting, cleaning their room, pulling weeds, or they might build something with a family member or family friend, or learn about auto mechanics or computer science. Students should be introduced to sitting with adults and having technology-free conversations

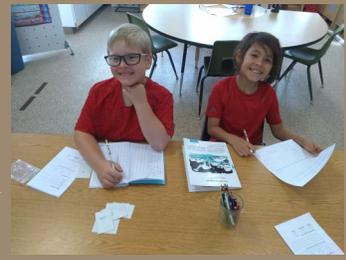
during family times such as dinner or eating out at restaurants.

We encourage you to expect these things from your student just as we expect them in our classroom. At the end of every day the students have a “beautification job” for which they are responsible. We teach them to take care of the prepared environment because it belongs to us all.

These students are our future and we aim to teach the whole child: school, home and community.

Please help us to hold space for their inquisitive minds and push them to reach their full potential.

Onward!



montessori >>>

Did You Know?

Benefits of Montessori

There are many benefits to receiving and experiencing a Montessori education. At Sedona Charter School we have observed far too many to list here. However, we’d like to highlight some of the most prominent benefits in the October and November issues of the Roadrunner Report.

Increased Aptitude: According to a 2006 study in the journal *Science*, kindergarten Montessori students were “significantly better prepared for elementary school in reading and math skills” than their traditional school peers. They also tested better in their “ability to adapt to changing and more complex problems,” an indicator of future school and life success.

Increased Confidence: Students develop the confidence required to master new skills, explore on their own, solve difficult problems, and achieve success.

Self Instruction: Children choose their own learning tools and work at their own pace. They explore, hypothesize, and gain knowledge interacting with instructional tools, teachers and peers.



upper elementary >>>

Pledge to the Earth

Maria Montessori believed that, “Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child.” This intrinsic desire for harmony is witnessed in the Upper Elementary classroom each day as we navigate conflict resolution, determine guidelines that will benefit our classroom community, empathize during interpersonal communications, learn about different cultures across the globe, and serve the greater surrounding community. Along with community building, our students seek out ways to protect the environment and foster ongoing conversation about sustainability through personal interest projects, local field trips, and our gardening elective.



In September, our classroom had the joy of building and placing a Peace Pole on the SCS campus. The Peace Pole Project began in 1955 as a way to spread the universal message of world peace,

and it has been embraced by many throughout the world. Our students designed, stenciled, and painted the Peace Pole in hopes that it will be a reminder of our shared hopes for tranquility, love, and understanding to all who encounter it. We also had the opportunity to learn the *Pledge to the Earth* by Aline D. Wolf, an educator and author who was vital to the Montessori movement in the United States. This pledge embodies the global mindset that Maria believed is fundamental in the sculpting of a prosperous and peaceful future, and we are excited to see this future come to fruition through the children of SCS.

May Peace Prevail on Earth!

PLEDGE TO THE EARTH

by Aline D. Wolf

I pledge allegiance to the Earth
And to all life that it nourishes—
All growing things, All species of animals,
And all races of people.
I promise to protect all life on our planet,
To live in harmony with nature
And to share our resources justly,
So that all people can live with dignity,
In good health and in peace.



The Diversity of Learning

The Middle School has been steeped in learning, sharing and growing this month. In Science, students are studying the periodic



table of elements and reading for Chemistry after completing work on atomic structure. In English Language Arts, they completed their polished map stories in which they narrated an event that happened in a special place and created an

accompanying accurate map. These stories show the diversity of experiences, humor and writing with our group. In Humanities, students moved from researching a country and global goal topic in that country (for instance "gender equality in Japan") and are almost finished with a position paper written from the point of view of the government of their country. This has been difficult work, and the students have been quite impressive with their focus, understanding, and dedication.

Our electives are in full motion, with students hiking the local trails with Alex and Tim, creating origami treasures with Alex, and developing a delightful murder mystery in theater class with Jacki. The students' origami cranes and fortune cookies will be molded into beautiful center pieces for sale at the MMUN fundraiser at the Elks Club October 5th. The Theater Class' hilarious original production "Murder at the Barbecue" will

debut at our October 5th fundraiser, and will feature Red Rock News editor Fox Graham. We hope you can make it!



Our athletic program has students participating in after-school competitive sports with great success. Our very own 8th grader Skyla has taken first place in every cross country meet in which she competes and our volleyball team won their first game. Go SCS Roadrunners!



We have also had the pleasure of finance expert Bill Cammock working with our students once a week, teaching budgeting, financing, investing and succeeding with money. He is a retiree who developed this program for middle school students, after wishing he had received more information like this in his childhood education.

We are gearing up for two field trips in the next month and everyone is getting excited for our rafting trip and a trip to the turtle sanctuary in Phoenix.

Letter from the President



Hello SCS Family!

The other day I came across a phrase that really stood out. "When we criticize our children, they don't stop loving us, they stop loving themselves." This couldn't be more true. The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice as they grow. How many of us tell ourselves things that may not be true just because they were told to us as children?

A couple of common messages I hear parents telling their children while working as a family therapist include: "You're doing it wrong. I'll show you how to do it," or "Get over it. You are being too sensitive." Almost every single time the child responds with putting their head down, crying, tearing up or getting angry. When a child hears criticism over and over, they will most likely have that internal dialogue as they get older and really believe that they do everything wrong, that something is wrong with them or that being sensitive and showing emotion is a bad thing.

Next time we find ourselves wanting to criticize our children, let's try to look inside ourselves for a way that we can encourage, working together toward a positive outcome. Before pointing out what is wrong from a child's perspective, attempt to understand them first. When children feel that their parents take the time to really listen to them and appreciate their concerns, they may be more open to alternative ideas or solutions to the problems they face. Hopefully, this approach can create more outcomes that provide healthy development for parent and child alike.

Find something encouraging to say every day. I wish everyone another successful month!

Yamile Daher, President
Sedona Charter School Governing Council.

WORKING TOGETHER



staff >>>

Governing Council: Yamile Daher, Meg Haesloop, Brenda Man-Fletcher, Steven Paley, John Griffin, Julie James, Katarina Houser, Suzi Ashley, Jacki Rice, Alice Madar, Gail Olson

Lower Elementary: Katarina Houser, Amy Tedrick, Amy Alexander, Haley Seiber, Dolores Biermann, Stephanie Schmid

Upper Elementary: Suzi Ashley, Maija Alanen, Lucy Hill, Jacquie Randall, Mackenzie Pace, Heidi Nila

Middle School: Jacki Rice, Tim Smith, Alexandra Winter

Orchestral Strings: Kristina Beachell

Athletic Director: Tim Smith

Administration: Alice Madar, Jannette Villalobos-Gil, Stephanie Knight

Title I: Bob Wentsch

Special Education: Lucy Schwill, Cynthia Tyler



looking ahead >>>

November 2019

Classroom News
Ask A Teacher
Special Events
Around Campus



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165 Kachina Drive
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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 and beyond >>>



Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Everyone has done dinner and a movie, why not try dinner and a murder? Come join us Saturday, October 5th for a killer night of food, fun, and crime solving. The editor of the Red Rock News has been murdered and we need your assistance in solving the crime!

Enjoy a catered, Asian inspired five-course meal as you solve the ULTIMATE Murder Mystery! There will be plenty of delicious food provided by Sedona's own Culinary Creations by Beth, lots of fun surprises, an auction and raffle as well as a prize for the super sleuth who solves the crime.

We are pleased to offer this engaging, entertaining and delicious community event to assist 10 of our students traveling to Hangzhou, China in November for the Montessori Model United Nations Conference. The event kicks off with a reception at 5:30 pm at the Sedona Elks Lodge, 110 Airport Road with dinner and entertainment to follow at 6 pm courtesy of our Sedona Charter School students.

Tickets may be purchased online www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4330359 in advance for \$75 per person or in the school office. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$80 per person. Montessori Model United Nations China will give our students exposure to real-world problem-solving. The program is designed to allow students to explore the real problems of the world and encourage them to discuss and negotiate possible solutions to global issues.

Our students have been busy learning and preparing for this opportunity for several months. Throughout their preparation and during the conference, they are responsible for the entire project. They are the ones who complete the research and decide the best resolution for the issue. Once in China, they meet and negotiate with other student delegates and write a final resolution for each issue without teacher interference.

The MMUN requires students to conduct themselves in a respectful manner towards

all other delegates. Participants quickly learn through role-playing that more success is achieved through civility in caucuses when important issues are at stake rather than discord. MMUN has created this Model UN student program to reflect the actual process of the United Nations, and it is an invaluable learning tool for those who have the opportunity to participate.

So, how can you help? Purchase your tickets and plan to bid on our auction items for this masterful fundraiser on Saturday, October 5. Some of the auction items include:

- painting and gift card from a local art gallery
- a 3-month membership to Los Abrigados
- a 3-4 night stay at any Diamond property in the US



DON'T MISS THE FIRST BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION DEADLINE - 10/21/19 - SEE ASK A VOLUNTEER INSIDE!



Sedona Charter School

OCTOBER 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Looking Ahead: November 7—Spelling Bee November 11 — Veterans Day, No School November 22— Thanksgiving Meals in classrooms November 14-22 —MMUN/China November 25-29 — Autumn Break</p>	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<p>Columbus Day</p>	<p>Governing Council Mtg. 3:45 pm</p>	<p>EARLY Dismissal Today</p>	<p>FIRE FIGHTER 1:15 pm Lower Elem</p>	<p>Teacher Workday</p> <p>HOLIDAY WEEKEND</p>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<p>Report Cards Available in ParentVue</p> <p>PARENT CONFERENCES</p>	<p>United Nations Day 9 am UE Field Trip Camp Verde</p>	<p>EARLY Dismissal Today</p>	<p>UE FALL CAMPOUT — TUCSON</p>		
27	28	29	30	31		
			<p>EARLY Dismissal Today</p>	<p>1:30 pm Carnival Event</p>	<p>BOX TOPS \$ EDUCATION</p> <p>Earn Cash for Our School!</p>	