

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

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montessori >>>

Did You Know?

Harvesting is Rewarding

With every good thought you sow a seed; with every good deed you reap a harvest. --Anonymous

As our teachers, volunteers and staff continue to work on improving our garden, everyone is excited to begin seeing the fruit (or in this case vegetables) of their labor. Harvesting of the garden beds has begun. A small group of physically distanced and masked Middle Schoolers were able to begin harvesting edibles such as chard, amaranth, tomatoes and green onions. Upper Elementary and Lower Elementary students are enjoying a bountiful harvest of freshly picked tomatoes. Our staff and students not only benefit from harvesting the garden, but also in taking vegetables home to share with their families.

We are including students in our garden adventures whenever it is deemed safe and appropriate by each classroom. While the garden is closed to the community as a whole, we encourage our Sedona Charter School families to learn and participate in this project. There is still plenty to do, and we would love to have all those eager and willing assisting with the upgrades and upkeep for our beautiful garden. We are specifically looking for volunteers to help us finish spreading gravel on the walkways. Please reach out to your teachers if you are interested in helping.

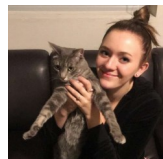
Thanks to everyone who has helped and been a part of the garden this year!



Oh the Places You'll Go!

It is easy in this season of COVID-19 to get caught up in all that we are struggling with and all that we have lost. While this pandemic hasn't been pleasant, we can always choose to stop and look for the good. One way of doing this is by reflecting on our past while anticipating our future.

As a school we have seen many students come and go over the years. Our alumni updates provide the opportunity to see their lives outside of our school walls. They give us hope for our own future as we learn how SCS has prepared them for the challenges of adult life. Today we take a peek into the lives of two former students. Enjoy reading how far they have come since leaving Sedona Charter School and what they are up to now as young adults.



Bethany Suave attended SCS from 2003 to 2012. She is a Sedona Red Rock High School and Arizona State University graduate. Even though Bethany started college at the University of Alabama, she transferred to ASU after a year and a half, going on to graduate a year early Summa Cum Laude. She received her B.S. degree in Family and Human Development in August of 2019 and has been working as a home visitor for Healthy Families, "an education and support program for families with kids birth to five who have been deemed at risk for child abuse or neglect", Bethany explains.

Kai Simson attended SCS from 2011 to

2013. He graduated from Sedona Red Rock High School and is currently attending Northern Arizona University pursuing a degree in political science.

Kai has been a Vice President of Government Affairs as part of the NAU undergraduate student government (ASNAU) and was also a student Senator representing the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences last school year. Kai hopes to graduate next May and became a student leader in order to "make sure everyone has a voice." Serving in school leadership continues from his time as class President and Vice President in high school. Under his leadership Kai was able to start a food pantry after realizing many students were eating their only meals at school. Kai credits his time at Sedona Charter School with "helping transform me into the person I am today." He goes on to say, "I was able to learn how to be more outgoing and also learn how to create change within my community."

It is always inspiring to see our students mature to become leaders who positively impact the world around them. In this season where we have so much that pulls us into a negative mindset, remember to focus on all that is good. Sharing stories like these, joyfully interacting with the people around us and remembering that there are still great things taking place all around us, will inspire us to love all humanity and work together for positive change.



A New Perspective

What a whirlwind these past few weeks have been. Thank you to all families who scheduled and participated in our LE assessments. It was wonderful interacting with our students in-person and online. After analyzing our assessment data, each student has been placed into appropriate level groups for Mathematics, Language Arts and Writing. We are trying to stay true to the Montessori Method by individualizing our students' education as much as possible. Many of the students participated in our beginning of the year traditional Montessori activities (sewing, sketching, cleaning etc.) and are now familiar with our Lower Elementary classroom website. If you have not seen our LE website make sure to check it out:



<http://scsleclassroom.educatorpages.com/>

As we move through September we look forward to self-portraits, studying the continent of Africa with our students and also teaching the Montessori Great Lessons. The Great Lessons introduce our students to the timeline of the universe and earth, the timeline of life, the timeline of humans, the timeline of writing and communication and finally the timeline of numbers. These are indeed the five great lessons of life and will take many months to teach. Join with us in observing the students while they stretch their minds to understand these grand concepts.

Since one of the great lessons involves writing and communication, we are changing our classroom's newsletter article in the coming months. In order to reflect the Montessori philosophy of allowing students

to do the things they can, we are challenging our third years to put their writing skills in action by contributing and writing our classroom article each month. As our third years take turns writing our LE newsletter article, Ms. Katarina will edit it. We hope you will look forward to reading this fun new perspective of our classroom activities.

Thank you to all of our families for making distance learning possible. We know this has been a major transition for you all and now more than ever we are truly teaching the whole child.

Onward!



special education>>>

A warm hello to our SCS families. We hope you are well and have established a good routine with the unusual start of the school year. We are grateful for our dedicated parents and students who are making online instruction work, and we look forward to being back to the classroom again soon.



Special Services are currently hosting students one-on-one in person with Miss Vicki in her room. These meetings are by appointment only and both student and teacher are wearing masks and observing social distancing as much as possible. Miss Vicki is enjoying getting to know her students and is excited to work with each of them.

Our therapists are also setting up their schedules via Zoom. Therese, our speech therapist and Raina, our occupational therapist are currently working with students online by appointment.

We enjoy teaching your children and look forward to classrooms being open for in-person instruction. If you have any questions or concerns about your child relating to special education, please contact Vicki at 928.308.9538 or by email at victoria.blessing@sedonacharterschool.com.

upper elementary >>>

A New Chapter

Congratulations to all UE students for navigating your way through this most unusual start to our new school year. Our learning community is thriving with 100% student participation -- Woo Hoo! We have watched in awe as our scholars are quickly developing many new skills. They have fine-tuned their executive and organizational skills by planning out each academic work week. They have accomplished this daunting challenge by completing student planners each Monday, making daily goals, and checking in with their planner teachers.

Students are also knocking it out of the park in technology skills and knowledge. Most of the time, they are the ones helping us! In just a few short weeks they have learned the ins and outs of Google Classroom, Zoom etiquette and features, and safety on the internet.

Our goal is to keep online instruction as close to an actual Montessori classroom as possible. The students set up all their notebooks during the first two weeks of school, just as they would for in-person learning. Maija and Suzi are giving live video Montessori math and grammar lessons each week for the students to observe and learn the materials they will be using. They are also providing some exciting art curriculum for the students so



Created by: Anya Huard-Hahn

they can utilize their creativity with different mixed media options.

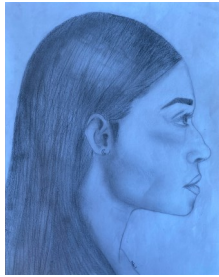
An exciting new addition to our monthly newsletter, that is coming in future editions, is that our classroom articles will be written by our UE students. We are excited to turn the reins over to our Montessori authors to give their perspectives on activities, academics, and news updates for our Upper Elementary community. Stay tuned to see this exciting new viewpoint heading your way in October.

In conclusion, we'd like to extend our gratitude to all our parents and families. We know this isn't easy on you and we realize your schedules are busier than ever. Our empathy and deepest respect goes out to all of you who are balancing work life, school life and navigating your students through online instruction. Thank you all for your continued support.

Looking on the Bright Side

Charles Dickens wrote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” It is always a great idea to focus on the bright side during challenging times. There may be a pandemic going on, however, the start of our middle school program was absolutely terrific!

Since the first day of school, students have created self-portraits and sculptures as a way to introduce themselves to each other. They have created Zoom classroom agreements and engaged in ELA work with the novel *Just Mercy*.



In our Humanities class, students have explored their own core values, researched the actions and beliefs of the presidential candidates, and will soon compare and contrast to see who aligns more with their beliefs and core values.

Our students are delving into cells in Science and foreign language class has begun with weekly work in Duo Lingo. One highlight of August was hosting a small group of masked and socially distanced students on campus to safely harvest ripe fruits and vegetables from our garden — yummy fun!



Students have eased back into leading our morning meetings and are doing a fantastic job. They are often much more efficient than their teachers. We

were so impressed and are reminded daily how much we learn from them. Their perseverance, adaptability and courage were very inspiring.

We had our first community problem-solving meeting the second week of school. These meetings are also run by the students and cover an agenda of issues that students and teachers compile during the previous week. The meetings can be exciting, contentious, serious and/or fun — but the bottom line is that we fix issues through brainstorming, discussion, and decision-making. This week the class decided on numerous changes to our Zoom and Google classes to make them better and to make the overall program more efficient for students. We were SO impressed with the maturity, openness, and flexible thinking that students showed in making things even better in our daily school lives.

Yes, we are seeing each other through video screens instead of in-person, however we are evolving and weaving our educational community together to make it work better for us all. We are even enjoying this temporary online world, knowing that we will all see each other again in the same room soon.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” but together, we’re making it through wonderfully.



COVID-19 Update

Dear students, parents, and staff:

Thank you for your flexibility and energy in helping your children succeed in our online learning program. We realize this is a lot of added work, and we appreciate all that you are doing.

Now that the state guidelines have been delivered and interpreted by all districts, we are aware that other school districts in and around Sedona are implementing different parts of their COVID-19 plans. One district is opening after meeting only one benchmark in the yellow zone, while some have a hybrid plan with students attending part-time in-person and part-time online, and others are continuing only distance learning for the first quarter.

Since SCS is its own district, our Governing Council decided to continue online learning in accordance with our Distance Learning Plan for the remainder of the first quarter of school at which time we will re-evaluate based on the benchmarks for safely reopening. This decision took into consideration the time and effort involved for opening our classrooms to in-person instruction in accordance with state guidelines.

Our re-evaluation will take into consideration in-person learning if the recommended three benchmarks within Yavapai county are in the green zone for a total of 28 days in a row. We are offering a free safe place for students at risk or requiring special services Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm for grades 1-3 at Precious Stones or Creative Childcare Club. We are also offering the same service on our campus Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm for students in grades 4-8 inside the Lower Elementary classroom while physical distancing or on our lunch patio while physical distancing. We have our onsite coordinator Katie Broman supervising these students while they are in the safe place.

If you are a parent requiring this service for your child, please call or email your Principal Educator by noon on the Friday before the Monday you plan to come to campus or plan to take your student to Precious Stones or Creative Childcare Club. We ask that you please give 24 hours’ notice when you need to cancel to relieve the school of charges and fees associated with no-shows and to notify care providers in a timely manner to prepare for the number of students attending daily. We also ask that if you chose to alternate between Precious Stones or Creative Childcare Club, that you call Ms. Katarina to let her know by 12:00pm the Friday before the Monday you need to switch. We cannot allow switching daily.

Thanks again for your patience while we work through this together.

ask the teachers >>>

Q: What are some benefits of distance learning?

- A:
- “Distance Learning has let us know how good we had it in our pre-COVID –19 day and given everyone (children, parents and teachers) a new found appreciation for the simple act of going to School!” — *Bob Wentsch, Title One Coordinator*
 - “Teachers and students alike are getting the opportunity to learn new technological skills.” — *Lucy Hill, Upper Elementary Facilitating Teacher*
 - “I love that the distance learning has provided the perfect setup for Socratic seminar. It naturally teaches students how to pause and participate in a discussion on a topic. I also like that we get to focus closely on academics because there is less distraction.” — *Alex Winter Middle School Facilitating Teacher*
 - “We are all learning more about different computer programs. And the teachers are also learning about video editing, and still have much to learn!” — *Amy Tedrick, Lower Elementary Facilitating Teacher*
 - “Distant Learning has forced us to become even more creative in our approach to educating children and helping them to thrive and succeed!” — *Bob Wentsch, Title One Coordinator*
 - “At the end of each day we have a gratitude moment where different students say what they are thankful for. Each day students mention being grateful for the online schooling they are receiving and how it is giving them important things to do and think about during the pandemic. While teachers are worrying each day about how online schooling may have a negative impact on students’ lives, they are telling us they are thankful for it. They are seeing and hearing each other. They are heard by us. They are engaged in learning. We are connecting from afar, just for this moment in time.” — *Jacki Rice, Middle School Principal Educator*

staff >>>

Governing Council: Yamile Daher, Meg Haesloop, Brenda Man-Fletcher, Steven Paley, John Griffin, Julie James, Katarina Houser, Suzi Ashley, Jacki Rice, Crystal Hoyle, 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, Jess Sweeney

Middle School: Jacki Rice, Alexandra Winter, Olof Ehrenstrom

Orchestral Strings: Kristina Beachell

Athletic Director: Tim Smith

Administration: Crystal Hoyle, Jannette Villalobos-Gil, Stephanie Knight

Title I: Bob Wentsch

Special Education: Vicki Blessing

Grants Coordinator: Alice Madar



looking ahead >>>

October 2020

Classroom News

Ask A Teacher

Music Notes

Around Campus



contact us at 928-204-6464
www.sedonacharterschool.com

165 Kachina Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336

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.*

music notes >>>

An Outlet For Joy

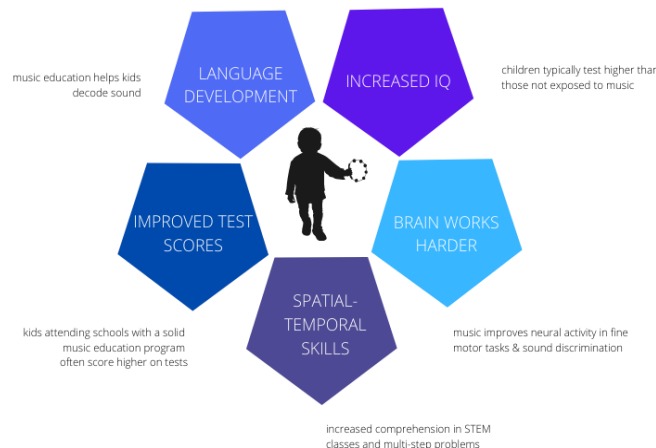
With the academic rigor that classroom teachers are expecting of their online students, music education, it seems, can become a subject more easily dismissed. Many adults are understandably having a difficult time coping with the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19, including how to balance schoolwork at home. Because many children tend to take on the anxieties that their parents are feeling in profound and magnified ways, it's important to encourage our students with activities that provide hope and excitement.

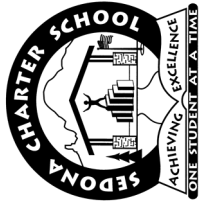
Studying music is an endlessly rewarding, exciting and magical pursuit for kids. Whether it's the simple delight of drawing the violin bow across the string for the first time, or studying the intricacies of a Bach cello concerto, playing music can deliver genuine hope and creative freedom to students learning from home during this pandemic. It can serve to nurture their happiness and well-being. During normal circumstances, music

education is proven to deliver a phenomenal array of benefits to kids. But during these uncertain times, learning an instrument can be a lifeline for children by helping to ease the stress and monotony of spending time distanced from others and learning online.



SCS strings instruction will continue to focus on teaching solid technical skills so that students develop good musical habits and find success on their instruments. While understanding the mechanics of music — intonation, balance, and blend — is vitally important to musicianship, we will focus a lot more on the joy, hope, and connectedness that music brings to our lives. Nothing makes being stuck at home and kept away from friends easy. However, the extra time children are spending at home is ideal for applying themselves to music and developing skills that can benefit them for the rest of their lives. Multiple studies have shown that children who learn music experience increased social, educational, cognitive, and creative benefits as compared to children who do not. So let's all stay engaged with learning music and allow ourselves to experience the joy that it provides.




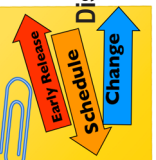
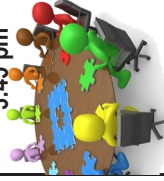
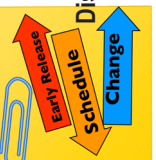








Sedona Charter School

SEPTEMBER 2020

Keeping parents informed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 	3 	4	5
6	7 	8	9 	10	11 PATRIOT DAY	12
13	14 Governing Council 15:45 pm 	15	16 	17 	18	19
20	21 Peace Day 	22	23 	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 	Looking Ahead: October 09-12 — No School [Staff Day 10/09] and Columbus Day Holiday October 19—Report Cards Available to View		