

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

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Design & Editing: Stephanie Knight



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Roadrunner report

montessori >>>

Did You Know?

Cross Country is off to the races

Cross Country has had a great start this school year. With five runners currently on our team and a few more students interested, we are looking to become a competitive team against other schools in the area. Mica, Kahlil, Phillip, and Choyki are returning again this year and looking to set better times than the previous year. Our team also welcomes a new runner, Dante, who has come to all the practices and showed great determination and improvement in running. All the runners have shown perseverance, stamina, and good attitude while running in the heat and completing the workouts. We are all looking forward to a great season!

We had a successful first competition at Camp Verde Middle School on September 23rd. Mica got 2nd place in the 5th/6th grade girls division. Our boys also placed with Kahlili placing 3rd, Phillip placing 14th and Dante placing 15th for the 5th/6th grade boys division. In the 7th/8th grade boys division Choyki placed 10th. Congratulations to all of our runners! What a great start to the season. We're looking forward to our next competition in October. We would love the extra support if you can come. Go Roadrunners!

Be sure to check out our website for more information on our After School Sports.



A Look at Our Past

Seeing How SCS Began

Bob Wentsch has been a part of Sedona Charter School since 1995, the school's first year of educating the children of Sedona and the Verde Valley. For 23 years he was the Lower Elementary Principal Educator. After passing those responsibilities on to Katarina, he has been the Title I tutor for the past two years.

Bob is one of the last founders of the school still involved with SCS. As such, he feels a responsibility to pass on the history of our unique school as understanding the past can help us understand where we are and intelligently guide our decisions in the future. In the Great Lessons, Montessori children are exposed to the concept of appreciation for their ancestors and the idea that all that we have today is a result of their struggles and efforts. So, it is with our school. Everything that SCS is today is the result of people's efforts to make the school a reality and a choice for parents and children.

Before we can talk about our own history, we must first talk about the history of charter schools and what it means to be one. Charter schools were established in Arizona for a number of reasons. One is choice. They allow parents a chance to choose a school that aligns with their ideas on how to educate and socialize their children. Each charter school, when applying for a charter, defines how it will educate children, its system of governance, and a myriad of other procedures and details. This provides families with quite a wide variety of choices in their children's

education. Families and children are all different and, of course, have different needs and expectations for the education of their children. In the "old days," unless you had money for tuition for a private or parochial school, you attended the local public school, regardless of how well it worked, or didn't, for you.

Charter schools also provide a source of competition for the public schools, as the money for the students goes to the school they choose to attend. The hope was that this competition would improve the perennially low levels of academic achievement attained by the children of Arizona. Charter schools are public schools and have to fulfill the same requirements as any district school, including testing.

Sedona Charter School was the second school chartered in the State of Arizona. The first charter school has since closed, making SCS the first and oldest charter school in the state! When we became a charter school we did so with the 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." A mission that we still strive to uphold today, over 26 years later.

Congratulations to us all!

Historical Credit—Bob Wentsch



Through the Eyes of a Child

As part of keeping our students challenged and engaged during distance learning, we have asked two of our third years to let us know how they are using their extra time at home.

The Boy Who Learned Lessons

One day I was standing in my driveway. I had an idea. I wanted to write a book. So I stood there and thought a little. I thought it would be about me. The main person should be Saile, which is my name backwards. Then I asked myself what should be the main thing? I thought it could be about lessons I have learned. Now I'm writing the book. It's called, *The Boy Who Learned Lessons*.

In each chapter, Saile learns a lesson that he should know in life. Usually Saile chooses the wrong thing and learns the right thing after doing some thinking. One chapter is about heights. Just like me, Saile is a little scared of being up high. He has to learn that it's just a story he is telling himself. But now I'm not scared of heights anymore. Neither is Saile. In the last chapter, Saile will have to

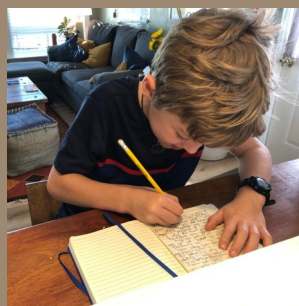
use all the lessons he learned to do something big. I haven't figured that part out yet.

I like writing this book because it gives me a lot of good memories and makes me think about what I can do better. I have learned a lot of lessons. Sometimes because I don't do the right thing first, I always learn more. So is Saile. I hope you have too. It's a lot of fun writing a book. You should try it.
— *Elias Kelley (3rd Year)*

Reading with Family

I have enjoyed learning from home because it gives me time to follow my interests. I have been reading with my grandma every day over FaceTime. I feel like it lets me have more contact with my grandma even though I am on FaceTime and she is far away. We can't be together right now and we miss each other.

I have read a bunch of books since March, but my favorite has been the Narnia



series. I like fiction because it lets me travel to other worlds and times. I love the Narnia series because it is full of magical creatures and big adventures. One example of this is when Aslan's voice made things grow and come into their full shape.

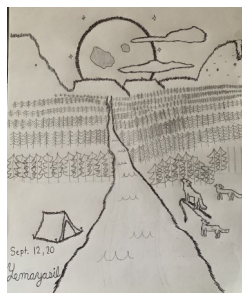
One of my favorite characters is Lucy. She is the smallest of the siblings, but she is so important because she brought her brothers and sisters to Narnia and is always so brave. She makes me want to be that way, too. These books have taught me some neat lessons. Book two taught me how important it is to forgive and trust the people we love.

I feel so lucky to have a grandma to read with and to even be with, in this time. I am so lucky to have an amazing mom to get me these great books and teachers who let me be free in my reading.

— *Neve Kelley (3rd Year)*



SCS Art Gallery

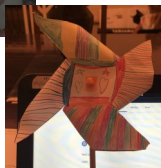


Phases of the Moon art project—*Yemayasil, MS*

Just for fun Rock Art Project—*Reevyn, UE*



Pinwheels for Peace, —*LE Students*



An Excited Outlook

Please enjoy reading as one of our 6th year students shares her perspective on distance learning.

This year I am a sixth-grade student in the Upper Elementary classroom. I have always wanted to be in the oldest grade in UE because of all the extra things that sixth graders get to do. When I found out we were going to be online for most of the school year, I thought it would be so disappointing. Now I realize that I don't need to be in the actual classroom to learn a lot and have fun. In this article, I wanted to share some assignments and activities that I've enjoyed so far.

I will start with one of my favorite subjects which is history. I am especially enjoying this year's lessons because we are learning about Arizona and United States history. So far, my class has learned about various regions of the United States as well as how to read maps. We also made timelines that highlighted important events that occurred during each year of our lives.

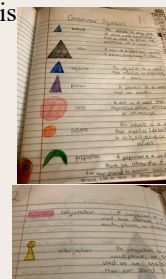
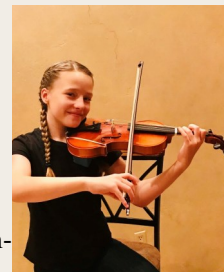
My second favorite subject is science. We are learning interesting things in biology, such as the different kingdoms of life. In a recent assignment, we had to find a picture or a real-life animal in order to classify it.

Another subject that we have been digging into is math. In my 6th-grade math class we have been learning a lot about geometry and how to count vertices, angles, and flat faces. We are also reviewing fractions, multiplication and weights and measurements. Reviewing these skills helps us get back into our normal school routines.

Another very interesting and exciting thing that we are learning is grammar. Montessori grammar uses specific symbols for nouns, adverbs, verbs, adjectives, and articles. We use these symbols with our writing samples each week.

Lastly, throughout the week we have Zoom meetings. I like those because I get to interact (virtually) with my fellow classmates and teachers. Class meetings, math, science and history are all done through Zoom. We even practice playing our instruments with Ms. Kristina that way! Even though things have been different this year, I really enjoy the work and can't wait for more to come.

— *Sofia Wolf (6th year)*



What We're Learning

In an effort to give our students the chance to expand their writing skills, we have recently opened up the newsletter to student written articles pertaining to what is taking place and what students are learning in their classrooms. This month we are pleased to include not one but two writers from our Middle School. Please enjoy their take on their education in Middle School thus far.

This year in middle school, instead of pencils, recess, and rowdy lunches together, it was Zoom meetings, Google docs and presentations from home. However, the show must go on. And go on it did, with perhaps more determination than before.

I'm primarily working in Science right now, one of the three class blocks of middle school. We started off with looking at current events from science news today. Surprisingly, no one did anything on Corona Virus; the projects instead ranged from ice caps to beavers to deep space radio signals. We then delved into biology and the four basic needs of life, the sixteen patterns of life, and cells. We each made a visual graphic organizer, a full-fledged picture book and took lots of notes. On Google Classroom, we were sent YouTube science videos, including raps and songs. We did a second current event, this time on Flipgrid, where we could make videos and share them. We had kids with southern accents, Australian accents and news reporter outfits tell us all about what was going on in the world. All in all, it's been different, but it's sure been fun!

—Josie Carter (7th Year)

Throughout the last few weeks in ELA, we have been reading the book *Just Mercy*. It is



written by Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer who represents criminals who have been wrongfully convicted or over sentenced. Reading this book brings up many interesting conversations about the subtle, and not so subtle, flaws in our justice system. We have discussed many aspects of this topic, including thoughts about possible racial exclusivity in the justice system, and the question of whether it is okay to send the mentally ill to prison after committing a felony. Every day we are assigned one or two chapters of the book to read. After reading we write a 150-word paragraph about something from those chapters. We also complete a weekly "Tic tac toe" project, where we choose 3 projects from a list, one each week. The last big project we have is a slide presentation on a humane prison. Each student picks a country whose prisons are recognized for being humane. We research that country's prison system and create a slideshow to present to the class. Overall, these first few weeks of ELA have been so enjoyable, and I have learned an incredible amount. —Lilia Munger (7th Year)

In addition to our online classes, teachers have been offering small group, socially distanced hikes so that we can safely see each other and enjoy some outdoor exercise! Fay Canyon was a great time together.



COVID-19 Update

Great news!

Our Governing Council approved opening with a hybrid model of in-person and synchronized distance learning starting on Tuesday October 13th. We are able to reopen because the three benchmarks have been in the green zone for a 28-day rolling average since July 26th. If we find that the benchmarks cease to be in the green for a 28-day rolling average at any point, we may need to return to Plan C of our Covid19 Plan.

The Operations team has worked with our Governing Council to approve funding for the necessary capital expenditures in order to implement COVID-19 precautions. We have enhanced our air filtration systems in each room, doubled our hot water capacity and installed no touch hand sanitizer stations and paper towel dispensers in each bathroom. We have upgraded our internet capabilities and have purchased new computers so that each student has their own computer to use when distance learning is required. We are also utilizing the cabin as our sick bay with cots and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for any child who becomes ill during the school day.

While we all long to all be together again, we must maintain safety and uphold the requirements that are in place for social distancing. Unfortunately, our campus does not have the square footage in each classroom that would be required for social distancing six feet apart for every student to be in class every day. We can only fit approximately half of the students for each classroom each day to meet this requirement. Therefore, we will be splitting up the classrooms into two Cohorts, Cohorts A and B, as we follow our COVID Plan B - Hybrid. You can see the schedule listed below for more specifics.

The Safe Space Learning Lab will still be available for families who have both parents working or for students who do not have sufficient internet at home or for students at risk or with special needs. The safe space will be available and supervised Monday - Friday from 8:30am until 12:00pm on the outdoor patio, wearing a mask is required when social distancing is not possible. All students also have the option opt for Distance Learning for the entire year at any time if it is desired. Please contact your Principal Educator to sign up.

We will be splitting the classrooms into two cohorts or groups.

- Cohort A: In class Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30am until 3:00pm and online Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- Cohort B: In class Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30am until 3:00pm and online Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.
- See "Plan C" of our Covid19 plan on our website for implementation of our online program for the days of the week your student will be learning at home.

We look forward to having SCS students on campus again!

ask the teachers >>>

Q: What part of the Montessori Philosophy do you admire most?

- A:**
- My favorite part of the Montessori philosophy is fostering independent thinking and choices. I like that students are built up to make their own choices and be responsible for their actions." — Victoria Blessing, Special Education Director
 - One of my favorite aspects of Montessori philosophy is the conscious creation of a respectful community: respectful of the planet through cosmic education, and respectful of each other through lessons of grace and courtesy. — Jess Sweeney, Upper Elementary Facilitating Teacher
 - After seeing the effects of student freedom, choice and agency in education, which is part of the core philosophy of Montessori for Middle School aged students, and watching those students grow into adults, I would say these elements are foundational keys to producing enlightened, confident, kind, productive human beings. — Jacki Rice, Middle School Principal Educator
 - I love the way Maria Montessori knew that we had to include grace, courtesy, and global community in our teachings to move forward with peace. Our emphasis is always on caring for others on our planet, every culture, every race, every human, and every living thing, because we are all interconnected." — Suzi Ashley, Upper Elementary Principal Educator
 - The most impressive aspect of Montessori to me is the concept of an individualized education for each child. All children are unique and deserve to understand what is being taught so that they can comprehend and make sense of the world they are a part of. — Bob Wentsch, Title One Coordinator

OCTOBER 13TH

Governing Council: Yamile Daher, Meg Haesloop, Michael Iskowitz
Steven Paley, John Griffin, Julie James, Katarina Houser, Suzi
Ashley, Jacki Rice, Crystal Hoyle, Gail Olson

Secretary Clerks: Diana Munger and Vivien Mann

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

Upper Elementary: Suzi Ashley, Maija Alanen, Lucy Hill, Jacque 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

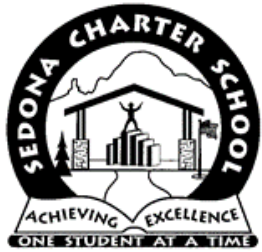
Grants Coordinator: Alice Madar



looking ahead >>>

November 2020

Classroom News
Ask A Teacher
Music Notes
Around Campus and Beyond



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

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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 >>>

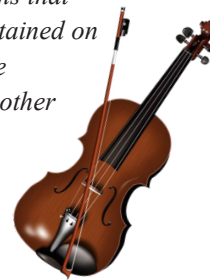
Music Touches More than the Heart– Part 2

Our Strings Department is committed to staying informed by reviewing scientific literature to gain valuable insight for both teachers and parents to help children of all learning styles and learning challenges succeed.

In the June/July 2020 SCS newsletter, we shared information from an article discussing the study and scholarly review of how making music benefits children with dyslexia. In a continuation from that piece, we would like to share an excerpt from the same article on how music training benefits working memory and executive function, and how this helps children with ADHD and neuro-diversity. The full article and details to the scientific studies that are mentioned here (and in the June/July newsletter article) can be found in Dr. Devon MacEachron's Strategic Learning Assessment "Conventional Wisdom in Parenting Part V:

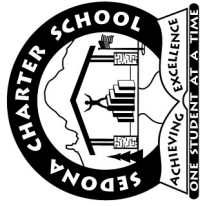
Is it important that your child learn to play a musical instrument?"

"Children who undergo musical training have better verbal working memory and executive functions. Why? Music unfolds over time. The auditory system must depend on working memory mechanisms that allow a stimulus to be maintained on -line to be able to relate one element in a sequence to another that occurs later. Also, at a broader level, musical activity links auditory, visual, proprioceptive, motor and emotional experience, supporting multi-sensory and behavioral integration. A recent study showed that children included in an 18-months long instrumental music program developed improved working memory, outperforming a control group that followed a science program



during the same period. There are studies suggesting that music training can help children with ADHD become less distracted and fidgety in the classroom. It may also benefit time processing. Finally, making music in a group requires communication, coordination, and cooperation, which can reduce impulsivity and improve social skills."









This type of research empowers us to think more deeply about how important it is for neuro diverse children to study music. Music forces our brains to think in different ways, make new connections, and process accordingly. This is true of anyone who studies music and just one of the many reasons why SCS remains steadfast in our commitment to offer all students an opportunity to participate in our strings program.



Sedona Charter School

OCTOBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Earn Cash for Our School!	<i>Looking Ahead:</i> November 3— Election Day November 11 — Veterans Day, No School November 23-27 — Autumn Break					1
	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL		Hybrid Learning Plan Begins  In-person Learning for Cohort A Distance Learning for Cohort B	 Distance Learning for Cohort A & B	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	 Report Cards Available in ParentVue In-person Learning for Cohort A Distance Learning for Cohort B	Governing20 Council 3:45 pm  In-person Learning for Cohort A Distance Learning for Cohort B	 Distance Learning for Cohort A & B	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A	 United Nations Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	In-person Learning for Cohort A Distance Learning for Cohort B	In-person Learning for Cohort A Distance Learning for Cohort B	 Distance Learning for Cohort A & B	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A	In-person Learning for Cohort B Distance Learning for Cohort A	 Halloween