

Subject: Weekly Wednesday Update from Great Hearts Arizona President 4.1.20

Dear Families,

We recognize that the challenges of navigating at-home distance learning for your children are far from the only challenges your family is coping with right now.

As we seek to nourish your child's mind and heart as best as we can within the restrictions of the school closure, your feedback is important to adjustments we make for remote learning going forward.

### **Remote Learning Survey**

**Would you please take a moment to complete [this survey](#) and share with us your experiences of Great Hearts remote learning so far?** Please take the survey by following [the link here](#). When you respond, make sure to answer with every student within your family in mind. Only one survey per household is needed.

In ordinary times, a strong classroom education is based upon a partnership between school and home, and in extraordinary times like these, that partnership is no longer just the basis, but is nearly the entirety of the work of remote learning. We are here to serve; please give us your candid and complete feedback on how well we are serving your children and you.

As we begin moving into the next phase of remote learning, we will be using more online resources like Google Classroom and Zoom. Zoom will be a key tool to help continue the relationship between our faculty and students as they meet face to face. Teachers are currently using it to host tutoring sessions with their students; headmasters have used it to connect with their seniors; and we are continuing to explore how to further leverage this important resource. As we move into the digital space, the connection between teacher and student will still remain central to the delivery of our mission.

### **Refunds & Belonging Retrieval**

With [the closures through the rest of the school year](#), we know that there are many things that are impacted for our families. One of the first things we're working through is how to refund the different fees (such as Athenaeum, full-day Kindergarten, athletics, field trips, etc.) back to you. During this unusual time, there are many hardships that we are facing, and we want to partner with you in order to ease whatever worries that we can. Please expect more details from your school leadership team over the next two weeks.

We also realize that many of you would like to recover items from desks and lockers. We are working to create a plan that allows you and your students to get these belongings in the safest manner possible. We will have specific details to you by Friday on how to get your items. The current plan is to have all belongings back to families by the end of next week.

With the executive orders from Governor Ducey, we also want to make sure to remind you that schools are considered essential during this time: pickup of packets and devices will continue.

### **Facebook Live Events**

We are also offering live sessions on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GreatHeartsAcademies/>) to keep our students (and parents) active and engage them in creative activities. We hope you can tune in to the following:

**\*\*\*APPROVED FOR RELEASE\*\*\***

Subject: Weekly Wednesday Update from Great Hearts Arizona President 4.1.20

**4/2 at 12:00pm: Draw and Paint Along** for our *younger* students, featuring Archway Veritas teacher, Brighton Demerest-Smith

**4/2 at 1:00pm: Draw and Paint Along** for our *middle and high school* students

**4/3 at 12:00pm: Easy Listening**, a 30-minute musical performance on the classical guitar, featuring Arete Prep music teacher, Nenad Savic

Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation for you to join me on a **Facebook Live event** next **Monday, April 6 at 9:00** am MST. I will be joined by our Vice President of Curriculum, Jake Tawney, where we will **update you on our remote learning plan** thus far, what the next steps are in the learning plan with online instruction, and answer any other questions.

We remain fully committed to delivering quality education to our students and families. Headmasters Philabaum, Twardeck, and Vasiloff sent out a message to the Trivium families yesterday that I wanted to share. It eloquently lays out our continued dedication to each of our communities. I leave you with [their words](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at [questions@greatheartsamerica.org](mailto:questions@greatheartsamerica.org).

Yours,

Erik Twist

President, Great Hearts Arizona