

August 5, 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you for joining us yesterday for the townhall on special education services. If you were not able to participate in the townhall, please find the recording of the event [here](#). You can also find the recording by going to our website at www.greatheartsamerica.org/safereturn/az.

One thing that was clear at yesterday's townhall and has been clear at every turn in the past few weeks, is how much the next many months will be asking of our teachers. Yes, it is also asking a lot of us as parents. I can say that from experience. But there are aspects of teaching during COVID that very few of us will experience similarly during our daily lives.

Teachers are frontline workers. They are essential to our community just as first responders and health care workers are. This means they take on more risk to ensure that families and children are cared for. It is noble, but precisely because it is hard.

As you can imagine, our teachers are under a significant amount of pressure. Many of them will be juggling the responsibility of on-campus students and those in the GHDL. It will not be easy, especially as our teachers are committed to ensuring all students receive the fullness of the curriculum.

Moreover, there are, as you know, the obvious concerns around COVID and its spread. Even as we take the necessary precautions, nothing can remove all risk. There are fears related to this risk, and it compounds the stress of our faculty.

All this is to say that there has never been a better time to reach out to your child's teacher. First, to say thank you. Let them know you see the good work that they are doing for the sake of our children. Second, to share support and encouragement. The more connected we are, understanding how we can partner in good faith with one another, the easier it is for all of us to persevere. The teachers need to know we are ready and willing to help them.

So, please do make a point of reaching out in some way in the days and weeks ahead.

Next week's communication will likely focus on the Department of Health Services metrics (set to be released this Friday, August 7th) and any implications for on campus re-openings. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes to everyone as school starts to get back in session.

All my Best,
Erik

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