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## A NOTE FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFICE

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Hello Everyone,

I hope this letter finds you well. This week, like many recently, seems to have gone by quickly with many changes to the world and our lives. Personal routines are becoming more and more important as we yearn for normalcy during these unprecedented times. Most of my focus this week was on establishing goals related to the feedback we received from the teacher survey. Those goals mostly centered around increasing counselor and social/emotional support for students, teachers and parents.

### **Zoom**

As I mentioned last week, one of the important points parents made in feedback was that they valued the face-to-face interaction made possible by Zoom. Our faculty has been working to increase the number of calls they have with their classes, and we have received many reports that this is having a positive impact. This was a strong example of parents and faculty partnering to serve our students better!

### **The reason we chose not to have full class zoom lessons**

I wanted to share with you the reasoning why AISG has chosen not to have full class, real time lessons on zoom. While all of us being in different time zones is a small factor, if that was the reason our dedicated AISG teachers would have made it work. The reason rests in educational philosophy and pedagogy. Our teachers have found that zoom lessons are not the most effective due to two key reasons.

The first is that in Zoom you can only see 5 faces at a time. Teachers cannot see who is an isn't engaged while they are teaching. With elementary students, a teacher must see a child's face to gauge what is understood. Much has been written about the thousands of decisions a teacher makes each day. The majority of those decisions rest in responding to students and guiding their learning. If a teacher can't see a child's face s/he relies on the work produced to make those decisions.

Secondly, it is our belief that most learning by students happens through the 1-1 context of support and scaffolding. When a teacher looks at a students' assignment or how they are working, they can see where misunderstanding occurs and develop appropriate support. This cannot happen during a

group zoom lesson. During face-to-face instruction, a teacher is constantly walking around while teaching, interacting, supporting and asking questions to stimulate learning. During online learning, this is done by looking at how a student answers a question and then leaving a comment to guide and teach.

### **Advice for parents during zoom meetings**

If you are sitting with your child during the zoom meetings, please remember to mute the microphone if you need to speak with your child. One of the difficulties of zoom is the magnification of background noise. The teachers would appreciate your support with this.

### **Zoom calendars**

Now that we have established more zoom get togethers each week, we understand it is becoming challenging to manage for you. We will be developing a weekly chart with your child's zoom meetings for the week. Irene and Janice will be emailing those out each week.

### **Something fun for you!**

I enjoyed this article on how music uses both hemispheres of the brain and therefore a source of relaxation and stress reduction. If you are interested in reading this article, here is the link:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/02/27/810049050/how-the-brain-teases-apart-a-songs-words-and-music>.

Have a nice day. Stay safe,

Ms. Tatz

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大家好,

我希望你们收到这封信的时候都健康。本周就像最近的许多事情一样,似乎随着世界和我们生活的许多变化而迅速过去。在这个前所未有的期间,当我们渴望正常生活的时候,个人习惯变得越来越重要。本周我的大部分精力都集中在制定与老师调查反馈相关的目标上。这些目标主要围绕在增加辅导员对学生、老师和家长的社会和情感的支持。

### **Zoom**

正如我上周提到的,家长们在反馈中提出的一个重要观点是,他们重视Zoom提供的面对面的互动。我们的老师一直在努力增加他们在班上进行会议的次数,我们收到许多报告说,这样产生了积极的影响。这是家长和老师合作更好地为学生服务的有力例子!

### **我们选择不在Zoom全班上课的原因**

我想和大家分享一下为什么AISG选择不在zoom全班实时上课的原因。我们所有人都在不同的时区是一个小因素，如果这是原因，我们AISG的老师一定会致力于让它发挥作用。但原因在于教育理念和教学法。我们的老师发现Zoom课堂不是最有效的，有两个关键原因。

第一个原因是在Zoom课堂上一次只能看到5张脸。老师在教学过程中看不出谁没有参与。对于小学生来说，老师必须看到孩子的脸来衡量他们的理解。关于老师每天做出的数千个决定的文章很多。这些决定中的大多数都取决于对学生的反应和指导他们的学习。如果老师看不到孩子的脸，她/他就依赖于学生所做的作业来做出这些决定。

其次，我们认为大部分学生的学习都是通过1对1的支持和搭建环境进行的。当老师看到学生的作业或者他们是如何学习的时候，他们可以看到哪里发生了误解，并发展适当的支持。这种情况不能在Zoom的小组课堂中发生。在面对面的教学中，老师在教学、互动、支持和提问的同时，不断地走来走去，来激发学习。在在线学习中，这是通过观察学生如何回答问题，然后留下评论来指导和教学完成的。

### **Zoom会议期间给家长的建议**

如果您在Zoom会议期间与您的孩子坐在一起，请记住，如果您需要与您孩子说话的时候，请将麦克风静音。Zoom的难点之一是背景噪声的放大。老师们会感谢你们的支持。

### **Zoom日历**

现在我们每周都会建立更多的zoom会议，我们知道为你们管理变得越来越困难。我们将为您的孩子制定一周的Zoom会议表格。Irene和Janice将每周发邮件出去。

**给你点有趣的东西!** 我很喜欢这篇关于音乐如何利用大脑的两个半球，从而成为放松和减压的源泉的文章。如果你对这篇文章感兴趣，这里有一个链接：<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/02/...>

祝您有个美好的一天。注意安全！

Ms. Tatz



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