



# International School of Kenya

Empowering students to create solutions for tomorrow's challenges

April 9, 2020

## **Subject: COVID-19 ISK Update #12 - Enjoy the Holiday Weekend**

Dear ISK Community,

As we roll into the upcoming four-day holiday weekend, make sure you schedule some “you-time.” The evolution of the pandemic in Kenya and worldwide is placing some increased stress on everyone.

This upcoming long weekend is normally a time when many families celebrate together around Kenya. In light of the recent government directive that currently limits travel in and out of Nairobi county, many of you in Kenya may be feeling additional constraints. I wish you all a restful holiday weekend, a *Happy Easter* if you celebrate, and I hope you can connect with loved ones this weekend.

### **Re-enrollment and New Admissions for 2020-21**

Re-enrollment information has been sent to each family with a deadline of April 15. We understand that firm plans for next year may be unknown for many. Most families have responded, and many have already indicated that they are returning and have paid the tuition deposit. We also have many new applicants, more for 2020-21 than we did for 2019-20 at this point in time. This means we already have classes that are projected to have a waitlist. If you are planning to return for the 2020-21 school year, please make sure that you are in contact with our Advancement Office by April 15.

### **ISK Teachers Get High Marks**

ISK teachers are working overtime to make sure our virtual learning program is engaging students and adaptable as we learn more about each student's needs in these unique circumstances. Our teachers are following best practices as they collaborate with educators around the globe to provide an evolving educational program, a program that is developmentally appropriate with regards to the number of

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hours that students are engaging each day. We are all grateful for the overwhelming show of support parents have shown to our teachers.

We don't have answers to everything, nor is there always a clear path forward. We, as I am sure many of you, continue to grapple and adjust how we can best support for your child (and family) in this new, uncharted territory. If you have questions about our evolving educational program, please contact your teacher or principal.

### **Zoom Security - Worldwide Update**

ISK has chosen to use Zoom for our electronic meeting spaces. Recently there have been some concerns expressed in the media regarding Zoom. The main concerns are around "Zoom bombing" and the security of the platform, none of which have occurred at ISK.

The security concerns would only apply to those creating accounts or from Zoom bombing attempts (below). From recent updates that Zoom has released, most of these security issues have been fixed. Registering a Zoom account is not meant for underage children, and ISK follows this by requiring that students **NEVER** create an account using their ISK email. Students/parents only join meetings through a link; they then enter their first name and go into a waiting room. No account is required to use the link sent by the teacher. We have also been following up with any student found to have created an account using their ISK email and requesting that they [delete their account \(video\)](#), not the app itself.

Zoom bombing is only possible if someone accesses the meeting code/link. We have asked all teachers to only share meeting links through calendar invites, Google Classroom, or directly through email. Links are not made public. Zoom has also initiated the option of a waiting room that all participants must pass through in order to join the meeting. Any unexpected guests cannot directly join a meeting unless the teacher admits them. Given that all participants must be known to be able to join an

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ISK Zoom meeting, there is little risk of an unknown participant Zoom Bombing or passing malware through a chat session.

Given the new security measures put in place by Zoom, and our own procedures, we are confident that we can keep ISK students safe while using Zoom. If your children are using social media to connect with their friends around the world, we strongly recommend that you monitor what accounts they are creating and using.

Be well, be safe, and take care of those around you.

Sincerely,  
David

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