



American International School of Zagreb

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Dear AISZ community,

This week I have been able to visit and participate in more virtual classes as the school routines become more and more established. Also I have been in meetings between teachers, Ms. Hawkins and Mr. Dexter as we prepare to submit the necessary information to the IBO on behalf of our students. This is an unprecedented situation in terms of final assessment for our IB students so we are taking it very seriously. As I have traveled through English, Music, PE, Grade 5 morning meetings and more, I am always impressed by the dedication and independence of our students and their ability to make the best of this difficult experience. These are important life lessons which are being learned at the same time as meeting curricula goals.

April 19th is the date scheduled by the government, up to which the current society lockdowns are in force.

The **optimist** in me is truly hoping for a positive announcement so that we can all return to school and our normal lives immediately after that. Having been in more classes this week has reinforced how much I miss our students and teachers.

However,....

the **realist** in me requires that we plan for the contingency that the government mandates an extension of the current measures. I need to consider that this could be a week a month or more. All of these possible projections are unknown at the moment. This ambiguity is why it is essential to maintain an active engaged learning community at this time of the year. It also maximises the time our IB students have with their teachers before the upload date of April 20. The decision to run school over Spring Break (apart from the Good Friday and Easter Monday holidays) does just that. It was a very difficult decision and in any such decision it is not possible to satisfy everyone's individual needs. I know that some people are delighted with the decision and others not. I regret that I am unable to satisfy everyone's desires, but these decisions are ultimately in the best interests of all our students. Such judgments need to be made in the overall best interests of the school as an organization and all the students given the range of unknown scenarios which may lay before us. The establishment and preservation of ongoing learning and the routines that support them is our absolute priority.

Outlined below are the arrangements throughout April in case the social lockdown is extended. If we are fortunate to get back into school we will adapt the program accordingly.

Community Meetings & Communication

Director Reaches Out:

On **Thursday 16th April at 14:00** I will host a virtual community meeting where I can address some of your questions. I will begin the session by addressing questions that came in on the survey and then shift to addressing live questions. On Tuesday we will send you an email with the instructions with the link to our meeting. As not everyone in our community has a Google account we will conduct the meeting using the two platforms **Zoom** - so we can see each other - and **Sli.do** so you can send me your questions live, to which I will respond.

Principals' Reach Out

This week the Principals have been speaking, or writing to a number of parents each day in order to receive feedback and enhance communication. This will continue throughout the course of the Virtual Learning Program.

Individual Conferences.

We are inviting all parents to individual virtual conferences on **April 23rd** and **April 24th**. These conferences are crucial parts of our learning program and our feedback to you. The opportunity to share with you, the progress of your children is essential as we go through our academic year and particularly in this COVID-19 situation. Ms. Martina Ozir will be sending you the sign up sheets in the very near future.

A message from Doctor Romana Chevrier.

So far the Croatian Crisis Team has been successful in slowing down and controlling the COVID-19 outbreak by implementing different epidemiological measures.

Croatia managed to achieve a so-called linear phase of the COVID -19 outbreak and the government is planning to change some of the measures according to the epidemiological assessment of the outbreak development.

We are all following the outbreak situation in the world and are aware of the different outcomes of implemented policies and measures from country to country witnessing that one of the most effective measures anywhere is social (physical) distancing in slowing the spread of the epidemic.

With suspended public transportation, prevention of all social gatherings of more than five persons we were also discouraged from leaving our homes except for necessary shopping or medical emergencies.

Now the government is reconsidering the possibility of reopening small farmers markets but again with strict rules in limiting the number of people that can enter the market to enable social distancing.

Despite nicer weather and higher temperatures, **people are still strongly advised to stay home and go out only to purchase necessities or in the case of a medical emergency.**

In order to stay fit and in good health, I have prepared a List of local Family Farmers (please see attached), who are delivering fresh fruits and vegetables according to the delivery protocol recommended by epidemiologists.

Please stay disciplined and STAY HOME!

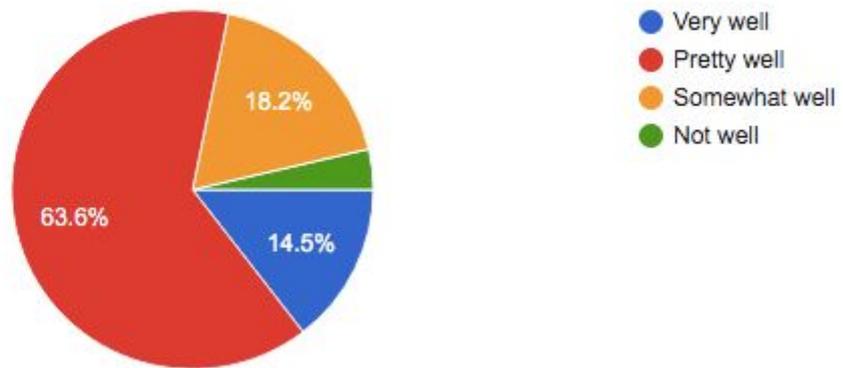
April 3rd VLP Survey Results

Thank you to all who filled out the survey last week. From the 55 responses received, for those who responded, VLP seems to be working well overall, however, we need to adjust some aspects in order to address some concerns. For example the balance between synchronous and asynchronous lessons may not be quite right in some cases, workload needs to be monitored to ensure it is not overwhelming and equal contribution to group work requires some focus. We are using this information to adjust our delivery with the aim to achieve a *sustainable equilibrium* of the program as highlighted in the last Director's Update. Most students are using the platforms satisfactorily with the main ones being Google Suite, Zoom & Managebac in Upper School and Seesaw in the Lower School.

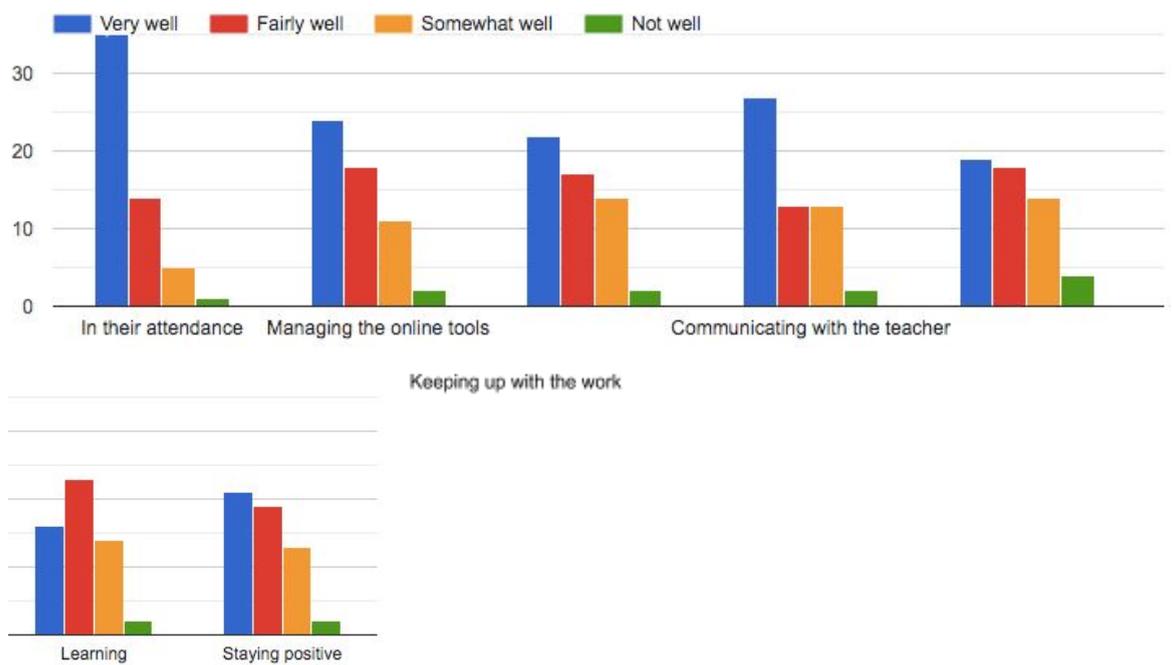
I will address the questions asked on this survey during next week's community meeting.

Overall, how effectively has V-learning worked for your child (children) so far?

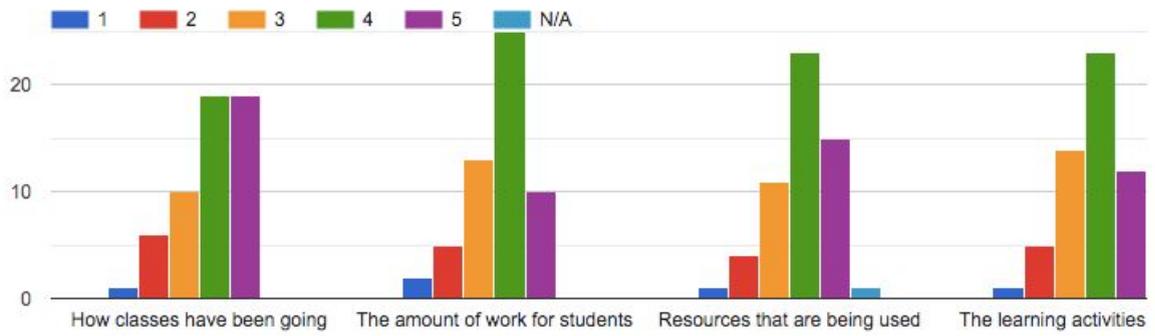
55 responses



How do you feel your children are doing so far?



How do you feel so far with...?



How do you feel so far with...?

