



International School of Zanzibar
P. O. Box 1787,
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Zanzibar, March 18,2020

Following the announcement by the Government of Zanzibar today requiring all schools to close because of the first confirmed COVID-19 case on the island, ISZ is now closed with immediate effect. Re-opening will be dependent upon instructions from the government but we anticipate that we will be closed for at least 30 days. Online classes will start on Monday, March 23.

What about our students' education?

Let us be clear: Education is a service to which ISZ is resolutely committed. The education we provide is not bound to our campus. To this end, we are shifting our education from the classroom to the internet. Our mission remains to provide quality instruction to our students wherever they may be.

Are we ready for online learning?

We are fully prepared to transition from the classroom to the internet, to move teaching and learning beyond the four walls of the classroom for all of our students. Our instructional staff have and will continue to develop their skills for providing instruction to our students within an online environment. The team works with students and parents to make sure they are acquainted with the online platform(s) they will be using and that students are equipped with a device and wifi to engage in virtual learning.

Although campus is temporarily closed, "school" continues as we engage students with experiences that continue the planned learning program and help them to stay connected with teachers and classmates. These learning experiences offer authentic opportunities to focus on key concepts, knowledge, and skills. They emphasize interaction and creativity, and involve a balance of on-screen and off-screen tasks that help connect to previous learning and the current curriculum. We hope that the transition will be smooth, but it is inevitable that there will be an adjustment period for parents, children and teachers to the new system, so we ask for your patience and cooperation during this testing time. If you have general questions as things proceed, please contact your child's homeroom teacher via email. Middle and High school parents can contact the respective subject teachers directly.

What if my child doesn't have a computing device?

We understand that transitioning from the classroom to the cloud will require computing devices for all of our students. If you do not have a device your child can use, the school has a limited



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supply of iPads that we are willing to lend to families in need. Please come see us if this situation applies to your family.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the Head of School, Dr. James W. Pilton. He can be reached at j.pilton@isz.co.tz.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees of the International School of Zanzibar