

## **LAGUARDIA VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING NOTES**

**April 2, 2020 – 9:00 AM Zoom Meeting**

### **Performance by Junior Instrumental Emiliya Mulerman**

Beethoven Sonata #11, Opus 22, 1<sup>st</sup> Movement

**Principal Vasconcelos mentioned that she's spoken with principals at other schools around the city and these are trends that schools are seeing as Remote Learning is getting off the ground.**

1. Students appreciate the new flexibility of Remote Learning, but also find it challenging to be in complete control of their own schedules. Students have options but not all are mandated. We need to support students' executive functioning so that they can organize and plan
2. Students are finding that opportunities to meet online with their teachers has been very supportive – in response, LaG has added Office Hours at multiple times throughout the day.
3. Workload – across the city every principal is saying that teachers have put so much time into Remote Instruction and are now finding that the assigned work is taking a very long time for students to complete. With this realization, teachers are looking for a balance so that students won't feel overwhelmed – we want them to feel connected, but not overwhelmed. Want it to be clear to students that if they need more time or more support, they need to give feedback to their teachers.

### **Spring Break**

We are awaiting guidance from DOE on how that will translate at the NYC level. Can't yet give more detail about what that means for LaG. Our goal is to support our families and make sure that we can help our students have a positive experience during this difficult time. Once we have official guidance from DOE, we will apply it to our community in a way that is supportive.

### **Starting next Week**

As of next week, all NYC schools will have an official way of tracking if our students can connect to remote learning on a daily basis. It is strictly a way for the city to get a sense of where students/families are in their ability to connect to Remote Learning. There will be a brief check-in task for students to check-in every day.

### **Vocal Studio – Ms. Swerdfeger**

Faculty working hard to ensure continuation of learning – schedule of Zoom class for sight singing and theory. Students get to learn and also see their classmates – provides not only the educational component, but also the joy of seeing classmates and community online. Supplemental activities - students video their own lessons and upload to teachers via Google Classrooms. Teachers post recorded practice guides, pronunciation guides. Links to free piano apps so that they have an instrument with a pitch.

Solo Voice for Seniors is meeting as a group. Students can have either a short personal lesson or upload lessons so that when they go off to conservatory next year, they haven't lost any ground.

Weekly assignments in sight singing and theory – [theoria.com](https://theoria.com) – a resource for practicing singing, comparative analysis of major works and also [sightreadingfactory.com](https://sightreadingfactory.com) – exercises that students can work on. Large ensembles are having practices on Zoom along with practice tracks and videos to keep big ensembles going. New Music ensemble have been creating new music virtually and also working in small groups and posting to [bandlab.com](https://bandlab.com).

Students taking new projects to talented alumni who are serving as mentors and real-world connections for now and in the future. Piano classes more difficult because not everyone has a keyboard at home. Students are completing comparative essays about how master performers interpret works. And also [garageband.com](https://garageband.com) that allows students to hear chord progressions. Helps students learn the underlying choral structure of the works they're working on. One of the challenges is the equity of vocal instruction in this time of crisis given that not all students have the same Wi-Fi connectivity. We are committed to an inclusive approach. Providing Zoom lessons and submitting video lessons, we try to provide options for everyone. Overarching goal is that students keep singing and staying connected to their community and their craft. We miss them.

### **Fine Art Studio - Mr. Driggers**

All teachers have setup Google Classrooms setup for all students – and everyone has registered. Art assignments have been given and Art being made at home – digital media, drawing, painting. Work is being turned in for credit – looks magnificent! Digital means for connectivity – Google Hangout, Meet, Zoom and Email to communicate with students. Visual Arts has an advantage in that it can be done at home as long as the work is there. Need to keep it moving forward. Staff and PA trying to organize a digital Senior Art Show – we will keep everyone posted on how that's going. As Principal Vasconcelos said, we understand these are unusual circumstances and every student

and family is in a different situation. Need to communicate with each other and let each other know what we need.

### **Dance Studio - Mr. Sinacori**

Never before had Google Classroom setup for dance studio – but now over the past two weeks, we've got Instagram Live, Google Hangouts, Zoom and at this point all 260 Dance Studio students are connected. Hybrid of live dance classes (which are not mandatory) – outlining different platforms that dancers can access.

[www.dancingalonetogether.org](http://www.dancingalonetogether.org) – brings all options every day. Friends have given free 30-day trials for Pilates and Yoga classes that are also posted on this website. Non-mandatory, but keep dancers physical and in-shape. Dance Faculty has committed to live classes at 3:00 PM every day for the entire department – on Zoom. Ballet, modern and improv. Again, not-mandatory because of variety of access students have to both internet access and space. Dancing in your home isn't always safe. There are weekly assignments through Google Classroom. Part of Week 1 Assignment was that every dancer in the studio now knows the same warm-up that they can use and we will continue to use once we're back at LaG. Individual classes are continuing - highlights in Graham Technique – 19 poses for Freshman – creating their own phrases in the space that they have. Limon Technique – watching videos. In Horton Technique we have a special project where alumni film themselves in their own spaces doing their exercises from the warmup and now we have an overall video for that with musical accompaniment. In Ballet, students covering dance terminology and breaking down dance sections they've already learned. Seniors are studying Romeo & Juliet. We've also kept up the Guest Artist Series.

### **Drama Studio – Lee Lobenhofer & Mala Tsantilas**

We were in middle of finishing up Spring Drama Festival season and it's frustrating that we've had to postpone, but hopefully not cancel it. Just in case cancellation happens, we're working on videoing it in a different format. Students working onscreen and performing their shows. Can be a great opportunity to finalize this process and give them something they can have and share. Other classes with Google Breakout working on scenes – general class meetings. Very important for students to have class meeting and feel that camaraderie. Afterwards, they go into different breakout rooms to work with their partners and Mr. Lobenhofer goes to each breakout room and works with them. It's proving effective because they're getting one on one time with each other. Students are also encouraged to continue working outside of specific class time with their scene partners. Have had to deal with variety of different technological availability but also disconcerting to learn that three of students that were in class also have COVID-19 as do their families. It's a lot to juggle and we're aware of that.

Ms. Tsantilas – the department and teachers meeting 2-3 times a week to discuss how we can support our students. All students and office hours are on Google Classroom. Teachers are meeting with students individually and in small and large groups. Studio classrooms are large groups – helps us recreate community from LaG. Options for students to participate in and upload their work. Helping students prioritize their work and keeping workload balanced. Translating what we're doing on stage to new live-stream media. Crafting in a community and also how to work individually. Uploading instruction for turning in written assignments about how they're working on their craft at home. Ms. Warden is spearheading a career management class with three other teachers. How does digital footprint affect the actor? Voice-over classes. Working on guest speakers. Theater History class moving forward with regular curriculum – a great wealth of material available as theater companies are opening up many live-streaming opportunities. We welcome your questions – and parent outreach.

SDF 3 – The Seagull is in rehearsal in the afternoons. Seeing how we can turn it into new live media.

Mr. L – posting lots of videos from the industry and keeping active!

### **Instrumental – Mr. Meyers**

Haven't been able to reproduce live learning remotely – many students don't have any instrument at home or share space with parents or siblings and so can't make noise / music. Difficult for students to play together because of varying connection times. So, instead, teachers are doing practice logs – using any instrument they have available. Note names and singing pitches. Some students are submitting videos to get feedback. AP Theory and Theory classes and providing videos. Music History Classes via Zoom – for discussion and then working on Google forms. Jazz Bands studying Jazz History. Jazz Improv comprising 12 bars blues melody. Studying history of different movements. Faculty members are continuing to find creative ways to keep their students involved and continue to learning. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please reach out.

### **Tech Studio – Mr. Swope**

Adjusted curriculum to focus away from prepping for shows and instead on the nitty gritty of software apps, AutoCAD and vector work drafting are being taught. Design classes moving forward. Teachers are meeting with students in small groups and one on one to continue discussion. Tech has a full department Google Classroom – all 145 students – are signed in and responsible for checking in on a regular basis to respond to a common question or statement and then look over their classmates' responses and add to the conversation in that capacity. We miss the hands-on tool work but good to focus on other areas of what we do. We have office hours – please let us know if you're

having any trouble, we want to support everyone. We don't stop learning and exploring. Please reach out to teachers if you're having difficulties or any questions.

### **Shoshana Seid – Executive Focus**

Slide presentation to be posted at a future date.

### **Dr. Mark Strickland responded to parents' questions**

*Q: How to handle students who receive extra time on assignments*

Be in touch with your teacher.

*Q. Is LaG considering moving to a Pass/Fail grading for the semester?*

No, we're not. Existing grading policy which is taking place city-wide at all schools, but there is no overhaul or grand scale change on this. Business as usual in terms of our grading.

Session is recorded and posted on website.