



Directors' Report  
July 16, 2020

"A healthy social life is found only when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole **community** finds its reflection, and when, in the whole **community**, the virtue of each one is living."  
~ Rudolf Steiner

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Completion of the Move from the Del Rey and Westchester campuses**

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, OCS officially moved out of both campuses. The entire month of June was spent purging, cleaning, dismantling, and packing materials, supplies, and furniture accumulated over the past 16 years. We are grateful to the entire administrative team, staff members, and volunteers who dedicated their time and energy towards this arduous task. Our construction team at the new campus graciously allowed OCS to move and store our belongings in the basement of the campus still currently under construction. Once the project is complete, we will make the final move upstairs into the classrooms and administrative offices.

### **Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan**

The Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan replaces the LCAP for 2020-21. It will be drafted by administration with input from multiple stakeholders in the community. It must be agendaized for the August regular board meeting for public comment, and then approved at a subsequent, regular board meeting in September for submission by September 30, 2020.

### **OCS Summer Institute**

OCS is proud to host our second Summer Institute this summer. Our Incredible faculty including Liz Beaven, Anna Rainville, Paola Schouten, Darcy Geanakos, Karin Costello, and current OCS teachers Megan Helms, Stephanie Becker, and Tomasa Mendoza are guiding teachers in their preparation for the coming year. The institute includes beautiful work and videos as well as interactive sessions. It incorporates the core principles of public Waldorf education, the reality of teaching during Covid 19, and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

### **Summer Professional Development for OCS Teachers**

The following list indicates what professional development experiences our dedicated teachers are busy undertaking this summer.

Kinder:

Teacher 1 - OCS SI

Teacher 2 - WISC: "Raising Our Empathic Awareness"



Teacher 3 - OCS SI and the Rejuvenation training with David and Anna

Teacher 4 - OCS SI and WISC: "Raising Our Empathic Awareness"

1st:

Teachers 1 and 2: OCS SI and Alliance

2nd:

Teachers 1 and 2 - OCS SI and Sunbridge

3rd:

Teachers 1, 2, and 3 - OCS SI and Sunbridge

4th:

Teacher 1: OCS SI and Eugene Schwartz

Teacher 2: OCS SI and Eugene Schwartz and CGI training

5th:

Teachers 1 and 2: OCS SI (both have taken Eugene Schwartz' course before)

6th:

Teachers 1 and 2: OCS SI and Alliance

7th:

Teacher 1: OCS SI and Eugene Schwartz

Teacher 2: OCS SI and Alliance

8th:

Teacher 1: OCS SI and Eugene Schwartz

Teacher 2: OCS SI and Jamie York

Math Specialist: OCS SI and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning

Specialty Teachers: OCS SI

### **Teaching Tolerance Professional Development**

In June, teachers and staff participated in a four-part interactive training on the following topics: Unpacking the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards, Let's Talk, Speak Up at School, and Addressing Inequities at School. The OCS faculty and administration plan to continue these conversations during faculty meetings when school resumes.

### **Building Relationships**

Class teachers who are new to their class will be meeting up with individual students and their families prior to the start of school to begin the relationship building process in person. These efforts reflect an understanding that building these relationships during distance learning is more challenging and will take intentional effort and time.

### **Directors' Statement of Antiracism**

As an educational community, our school has a responsibility to support our community of board members, parents/caregivers, teachers, staff and students in doing all we can to truly understand the history of racism in our country; the current manifestations of racism in our society and at OCS; to do the personal reflective work to confront our own biases; to have the difficult conversations; to celebrate black, indigenous, and people's of colors cultures; and to move forward in daily action. In short, we must review our practices and make adjustments to ensure they are reflecting antiracism.

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As a public Waldorf school in Los Angeles in 2020, it is our job as Waldorf educators and families to do the work to find ways to actively work against racism with our students and with each other.

It should not be the responsibility of black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) to educate white people about institutionalized racism and oppression. It is time to recognize that we all have racial identities and that some of us are privileged as a result of our racial identity while others aren't. As the Executive Directors at OCS and as two white women, we are committing to do the hard work for change in ourselves and with our school community because only then can OCS actually become a more just and equitable place for **all** our students.

The goal of administration is to work with the board to adopt a statement from both the board and administration on antiracism at OCS.

### **Total Enrollment by grade as of 7/6/20**

K=79

TK=27

1st=56

2nd=56

3rd=83

4th=56

5th=56

6th=56

7th=56

8th=56

Total= 581

### **New Parent Orientations**

Our most recent new parent orientation reflected changes based on feedback from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion conversations and the Parent Collective. The changes included teachers and representative parents taking the lead on certain aspects of the presentation, including curricular elements, parenting elements, and DEI elements. The changes were well received and will continue to be included in future sessions.

Administration will continue to ask for feedback on the sessions from new parents and to make changes as needed in response.

### **2020-2021 Calendar**

August 31, 2020 – first day

June 16, 2021 – last day

Thanksgiving Break – November 23-27, 2020

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Winter Break- December 21, 2020 – January 1, 2021

Spring Break – April 5-9, 2021

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:**

#### **End of Year Reports and Report Cards:**

OCS families will receive their child's narrative End of Year Report and Report Card for middle school students by August. Teacher's reports will include a curricular overview of the year as well as personalized feedback for each student in academic, artistic, and social-emotional areas. In the middle school, students receive letter grades in all academic subjects and specialties, with longer comments about social-emotional growth and citizenship shared in their end of year reports.

#### **CARE Team:**

The CARE team will be part of planning for re-opening in the various scenarios as each one poses particular benefits and challenges for segments of our school population.

#### **Re-opening Plans:**

OCS has announced that we will open with distance learning on August 31<sup>st</sup> and continue with it at least until late October/early November. Our goal is to shift to a hybrid model once it is safe to do so.

Administration continues to stay abreast of weekly if not daily updates from the California Department of Education and State Superintendent; the Los Angeles County Department of Education; LAUSD; the California Charter Schools Association; the Young, Mlnney, and Corr legal team; ExEd, and the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education.

Some guidelines for distance learning have been released related to schools re-opening in the fall, with more expected in the new days and weeks. We now have greater clarity on instructional minutes for distance learning and on attendance, although questions still remain in both these areas.

#### **Instructional minutes:**

Kinder: 3 hours/day

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>: 4 hours/day

#### **Attendance:**

Teachers are required to take attendance daily. Weekly records for each student are also required. Schools must reach out to families if a student misses more than 3 days of distance learning in a week.



Still, many issues remain unresolved. Included in these still unresolved issues are: how will attendance actually be reported; how will schools handle a case and/or an outbreak of Covid 19; how will schools handle testing for Covid 19; how will schools handle contract tracing for Covid 19; what exactly counts for instructional time per AB 98.

Next steps include revising our Distance Learning Plan with OCS stakeholders to reflect lessons learned from spring and the new guidelines. We will also be developing our Hybrid Model Plan with input from stakeholders. Among zoom meetings with school groups, OCS has used and will continue to use surveys to gather as much community input as possible on these plans and on the needs of our families.