

Directors' Report September 3, 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

Faculty and Staff Professional Development: focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work

OCS faculty and staff participated in diversity, equity and inclusion training with *The Lighthouse Educational Consulting Group* during the professional development time last week in preparation for the new year. Dr. Patrica Sanco facilitated the first of several sessions; she began with creating a safe space for all to share without judgment. The primary objectives from this first session were to develop a working understanding of Equity vs. Equality. The second two sessions will focus on an understanding of unconscious and implicit bias and tangible action steps that will ensure students, parents, and staff members have access to an equitable school environment.

The overarching goal is for Ocean Charter School to achieve Cultural Competence. According to the National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, Cultural Competence in Organizations is defined by follows:

- Have a defined set of values and principles, and demonstrate behaviors, attitudes, policies, and structures that enable them to work effective cross-culturally.
- Have the capacity to (1) value diversity, (2) conduct self-assessment, (3) manage the dynamics of difference, (4) acquire and institutionalize cultural knowledge, and (5) adapt to diversity and the cultural contexts of communities they serve.
- Incorporate the above in all aspects of policy-making, administration, practice and service delivery, systematically involve families and communities.
- Cultural competence is a developmental process that evolves over an extended period. Both individuals and organizations are at various level of awareness, knowledge and skills along the cultural competence continuum.



We look forward to Dr. Sanco's continued work with faculty and staff, as well as upcoming Board and parent trainings.

Total Enrollment by grade as of 8/31/20

K=75 TK=26 1st=56 2nd=56 3rd=82 4th=55 5th=56 6th=53 7th=55 <u>8th=54</u> Total= 568

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

Distance Learning

The first day of school for students was Monday, August 31st and to date, we have received feedback from many teachers and parents that distance learning seems to be off to a decent start. The greatest challenge has been keeping up with the demand for devices and hotspots. OCS continues to distribute a limited number of chromebooks and LAUSD issued iPads/laptops, as Administrative Team members work around the clock to prepare the devices for use. With every school district in the country placing chromebook orders, it will take some time before we receive our new devices on backorder.

Attendance and participation during distance learning is critical to student's ongoing learning and progression. As shared before, OCS will adhere to the following state attendance and participation requirements for distance learning:

- Attendance must be taken daily by teachers.
- Daily Participation must be documented for each day of whole or partial distance learning as evidenced by: participation in online activities, completion of assignments and assessments, and contacts between employees and pupils or parents.
- Parents/Caregivers who want to minimize their child's screen time can do so by: making sure their child checks in via zoom however briefly with her/his teacher
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each day; making sure their child completes all assigned work and turns it in on time; making sure their child completes all assessments in the time given; and by checking in themselves with their child's teacher at least once a week at an agreed upon time to collaborate and share teacher feedback on the student's work.

- A Weekly Engagement Record must be completed by the teacher for each pupil documenting: synchronous or asynchronous instruction for each whole or partial day; verifying daily participation; tracking assignments.
- Regular communication with parents regarding pupil academic progress is required.
- No Daily Participation = Absence.
- Chronic Absenteeism (absence from distance learning for more than 3 school days or 60% of a school week) must be reported to administration.
 Administration will then implement the tiered reengagement strategies.

Student Materials

The Administrative Team organized the first 1st-8th grade students supply drive-thru pick up of the new school year held on Friday, August 28^{th.} All day, not far from the OCS construction site on Panama Street adjacent to the bike path and the grassy area on "Little" Culver Blvd., staff and faculty members distributed hundreds of bags of student supplies (including main lesson books, writing instruments, paints, drawing/painting paper, workbooks/textbooks, etc.) as well as musical instruments, computers and hotspots. We will continue to schedule times for student supply pick-ups, as well as arrange additional pickups for individuals as needed.