



Directors' Report
May 7, 2020

"In these times, in these uncertain times, I will remain open
to the miracle that is each moment."
Jacquie Godden

ADMINISTRATION

Covid-19: CARE Team

Administration is coordinating a team of OCS employees who will proactively gather and solicit needs of our students and families during this time in order to address them in systematic ways that are tracked. Needs can be anything from help managing schedules to Spanish language support to mental health and parenting support to academic support to support finding government resources. Especially as the pandemic continues, the needs in our community will shift and we must have a consistent and reliable way to unearth and address these needs. Administration will continually refine how the CARE team works to optimize results.

OCS Website

The new website launched this week!

We are incredibly grateful to OCS parent, Venkat Padmanabhan, for this tremendous gift!

OCS Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Self-Study Visit

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges has rescheduled the accreditation visit. Dr. James, the Visiting Committee Chair has confirmed the following dates for the Self-Study visit:
January 24, 2021 – January 27, 2021 (Sunday-Wednesday).

Public Waldorf Education Core Principles

As part of ongoing sharing with the Board about our school's philosophy, the Directors highlight one of the seven core principles of Public Waldorf Education in each Directors' Report. The seventh core principle is below.

7. Schools as Learning Communities:

Public Waldorf schools cultivate a love of lifelong learning and self-knowledge.



- Public Waldorf education emphasizes continuous engagement in learning and self-reflective practices that support ongoing improvement. At the individual and classroom level, teachers reflect regularly on their observations of the students and of the educational process. Essential aspects of school-wide work and Public Waldorf education encourages collaboration in schools, within the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, among all schools working out of a developmental approach, in conjunction with the broader field of education. Professional development include self-reflection, peer review, faculty and individual study, artistic activity, and research.
- Rudolf Steiner is a primary, but not exclusive, source of guidance for developing an active inner, meditative life and an understanding of the dynamics within society.
- Public Waldorf schools encourage all community members to engage in active and ongoing ways to enhance their capacities as human beings through self- reflection and conscious social engagement.

Enrollment by grade as of 5/7/20

K=55

TK=26

1st=56

2nd=82

3rd=55

4th=54

5th=50

6th=55

7th=52

8th=51

Total=536

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

Distance Learning Plan

The attached Distance Learning Plan reflects negotiations between OCS and OCTA (Ocean Charter Teachers Association), input from specialty experts, input from parents, input from legal, and information shared by state, county and local educational agencies.

End of Year Reports



As explained in the Distance Learning Plan, end of year reports and report cards for 6th – 8th grade students will be written this year as usual. However, due to Covid-19, the narrative End of Year Reports and report cards will be sent electronically. Hard copies will be provided based on parent request.

Eighth Grade Graduation

After consultation with 8th grade students, parents, and teachers, the decision has been made to postpone graduation until it can be held in person. While it may still involve social distancing and masks, everyone felt strongly that being together in person to mark our graduates moving on to high school is the better way to conclude their time at OCS and send them off rather than doing a virtual ceremony. There will still be end of year rituals to bring closure to their year, but the actual ceremony will happen as soon as we can hold gatherings of groups of people.

5th Grade Middle School Presentation

5th grade parents/caregivers were invited to our annual middle school presentation to get a sense of the developmental picture of a middle school student as well as how OCS meets the students for this exciting time through the curriculum and program.

Teacher Placement and Hiring

Administration is in the final stages of hiring and teacher placement decisions for next year. OCTA and OCS worked together to extend the contractual timeline for these decisions due to the unique circumstances of hiring during Covid 19. The process of deciding where teachers will go for the following year is a complex process, one that involves multiple factors, but ultimately comes down to making the best decisions for the particular students in each of the classes.

Announcements for all class teachers and introductions of new teachers will be made after our last day of school. The reasons for this timing are to allow the teachers and students together now the time and space to bring closure to this year before moving ahead into the future. We have seen that giving space and time for this process is healthier in the long run, although we understand that it can be difficult, especially for parents, to wait.

Administration will work with teachers to provide opportunities for the class families to meet the new teachers and to connect with them. During this time of social distancing, the usual meet and greet in person meetings will not be possible, but we will be creative in finding ways to create connections and build relationships for all the classes transitioning to new teachers.

Summer Training

Administration is actively looking into summer training options, including our own Summer Institute. We know summer training is critical to prepare for the coming year,

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and we are mindful of the uncertain budget for training this year due to the recession. Priority will be given to teachers who are new to Waldorf and those who have not previously taught the grade they will be teaching next year.