

Directors' Report
May 4, 2023

May my soul bloom in love for all existence.

Rudolf Steiner

Educational Program

State Testing:

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

All 3rd-8th grade students will take the CAASPP in the month of May.

Technology readiness: The staff has worked diligently to ensure that all the devices are ready in advance of the CAASPP testing.

Teacher preparation: Teachers have participated in a number of professional development trainings to prepare them to administer the CAASPP tests. The trainings cover test security, accommodations for students with IEPs and 504 plans, student groupings, content preparation, logistical preparation and creating a low-stress testing environment while still encouraging students to make their best effort.

Student preparation: Under the guidance of their teachers, students in grades 3rd- 8th have been preparing for the annual testing by exploring the practice tests, working on them both as a class and individually, practicing the logistics of testing, and making sure they know how to use accommodations that are in place for those who receive them. All students participated in practice CAASPP testing on April 18th to ensure everyone was able to successfully log into the devices and navigate through the practice assessment.

All students in grades 3rd – 8th take the Math CAT (Computer Adaptive Test) and Math PT (Performance Task) as well as the ELA CAT (Computer Adaptive Test) and ELA PT (Performance Task). Students in 5th and 8th grade also take the Science test. Testing is scheduled during the 2nd – 4th weeks of May, with most classes finishing in the first week of testing and some needing a few additional days. Make-up testing however does continue until all students in grades 3rd – 8th have completed all required sections.

Internal Benchmark Assessments:

NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association)

- Charter schools are required to have standardized internal assessment data to track student progress as a condition of their charter renewal. The charter granting agenda, which is LAUSD for OCS, monitors the results of these assessments annually to ensure they are being implemented, to analyze results by grade level as well as by subgroups, to evaluate our use of assessment data to inform instruction and professional development, and to keep parents and the Board informed of student performance.
- Students in grades 1st – 8th began taking internal assessments with our new internal assessment system, NWEA, for the first time this school year. Students have been assessed in Language Arts and Math twice already this school year; they will take a third test following the CAASPP assessment at the end of the year.
- The results of the assessments are used to guide instruction and differentiation, and, as needed, support through the SSPT process.
- Parents receive a Parent Report of their child's scores three times/year.
- This year is the first year OCS teachers are using the NWEA system with our students. We are still learning how to administer the tests effectively and efficiently to support student performance, as well as how best to use the results to inform instruction. Teachers will continue to collaborate in these efforts as we refine our internal assessment practices.

LAUSD Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit: Revised Report

The Charter Schools Division Team shared an updated annual Performance-Based Oversight report. A revision was made to the Summary of School Performance section, specifically noting the school's Additional Targeted Support and Improvement status on page 13 and a note added regarding the same on page 14. The following scores based on a 4-point rubric remain the same:

Category I: Governance – 4, Accomplished

Category II: Student Achievement and Educational Performance – 3, Proficient

Category III: Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations – 4
Accomplished

Category IV: Fiscal Operations – 3, Proficient

Please see the revised report of the Annual Performance review attached.



OCS Summer Institute (faculty updates)

OCS will once again host on-site public Waldorf teacher training this summer during the week of June 26th – 30th. We have a wonderful group of faculty to lead the program, including: Bonnie River of Gradalis, Kenya Strong of Alma Partners, Carol Ann Diven formerly of Rudolf Steiner College and currently with Maple Village; former OCS teacher Lisa Borhaug; OCS class teachers Tomasa Mendoza and Brenan Yack; and OCS Waldorf Mentor Ania Kubik. OCS teachers plus teachers from other CA Waldorf charter schools will attend. This year is a re-launching year after a few year pause due to the pandemic. Our focus is on deepening public Waldorf Education with non-Eurocentric curriculum and practices.

Community Events

Spring Faire

The annual Spring Faire was a joyous celebration held on Friday, April 28th that included drumming, Maypole dancing and singing, live music, flower garlands, food, games, and obstacle courses! Students in grades 1st-5th danced grade specific Maypole dances throughout the school day; parents were invited to watch their children perform. The staggered dance times allowed each class of parents to enjoy their child's performance in a relaxed fashion. After school, the entire community was invited to attend the Spring Faire celebration with the Ocean Peace Players opening the event, Ms. Megan's 5th grade Maypole ribbon weaving dance performance, and a dedication to the Gabrielino/Tongva people, the traditional caretakers of the land on which our school resides. There was a delicious selection of food, drinks, and special snacks and treats, and activities and obstacles courses provided by our 7th grade students, teachers, and families! We are so grateful to the dedicated parents who helped organize the faire, to our teachers for preparing their students, to our staff for working behind the scenes, and to our students for sharing their joy with us all!

Special thanks to Lauren Hall for working tirelessly behind the scenes for our school!

Ocean Gala at the ROXY

The Ocean Gala at The Roxy Theatre in Hollywood held Saturday, April 15th was a highly successful event, raising over \$50K in net proceeds to benefit the children of OCS! We thank everyone who purchased a ticket and we're immensely grateful to those who bid on incredible auction items! Most of the items were handmade by our very own OCS parents! We hope guests who participated and dressed in their 70s best attire enjoyed a fun adult night out with the OCS community!



Special thanks goes to Nic and Alison Adler for hosting the event at the Roxy and to parent volunteers Heather Keenan and Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs for making it all happen for our students!

Governance

Alliance For Public Waldorf Education: Self Study

The Self-Study process continues a deep dive into the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education over time with all stakeholders, including the Board of Trustees, Governance Committee members, Parent Collective Coordinators, faculty and staff. The goal is to become a full member school of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education. A full member school is essentially the equivalent status in the “Waldorf” World as OCS’ traditional education accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Finance

2023-2024 Draft Budget

Based on the Governor’s proposed budget, the Finance Committee reviewed two proposed budget scenarios, one that assumes that the Arts and Music Block Grant is cut by 30%, and one that includes the full original allocation of the Arts and Music Block funds. The Finance Committee met again on April 17th and there are not any updates included in the draft budget scenarios to be presented to the Board for initial review.

Operations

Teacher Recruitment

Teacher recruitment is ongoing as OCS seeks qualified, credentialed teachers who either already have a demonstrated interest or training in Waldorf Education or who are philosophically-aligned and eager to learn more about public Waldorf Education.

OCS Summer Camp

In alignment with ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) funding, OCS is again offering Summer Camp that includes 2 hours of morning academic time followed by physical, social, and creative activities. Students who are eligible for free/reduced lunch can participate at no cost. Registration is still open. Quite a few OCS alumni have already inquired about working or volunteering in the camp. Hiring will begin in early May.



Outreach & Enrollment

Tours

OCS will conduct the final school year tour on May 3rd. We will offer additional tours after the close of school during the summer months.