

Director's Report

October 5, 2023

Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives.

~ Rudolf Steiner

Educational Program

Deepening OCS' Practice of Public Waldorf Education

Mentoring

- Current mentoring work in ongoing to support teachers implementing public Waldorf Education, including integrating the standards, differentiation, engagement, assessment, incorporating the arts, and classroom management.

Faculty Meetings

- DEIB with Alma Partners: OCS teachers have participated in 2 of 7 workshops with Alma Partners. The first was on Creating Relationships that Transform Culture led by Joaquin Munoz and the second was on Key Concepts in DEIJ led by Kenya Strong.

Parent Education

- More Than Sex Ed (MTSE) hosted an all school zoom session in August to share basic concepts and vocabulary in sex ed, and is continuing their parent education work in loop level meetings throughout the year. They are available to support teachers in their planning and implementation of grade level lessons as follow up to the in-service training done before the start of the school year.
- Project Reboot founder, Dino Ambrosi, will be leading a student assembly for grades 5th – 8th and parent workshop that evening around media use, digital citizenship and literacy.

Student Performance

Please see separate attachment showing OCS CAASPP schoolwide results from 2016-2023.

Student Engagement

- Informal counseling services have begun as well as social skills groups to support students social-emotional and mental health as well as their relationships with peers in the school setting.

- Middle school students are highly engaged in OCS' sports program, with the highest number of participants ever on our teams and enthusiastic school spirit from students in grades not yet eligible to play.
- Student Safety Patrol continues to be a way for students to learn and practice leadership skills in service to the safety of our community. Bi-weekly meetings help team members grow their capacities through direct communication and problem solving through collaboration.
- School events like our LatinX Heritage Month and Community Dance brought the whole community together. Delicious food, live music, and dancing were enjoyed by all under the beautiful backdrop of the student-made flags of all the Spanish speaking countries and in front of the OCS ofrenda where community members are invited to honor deceased loved ones.
- In addition to parent education events, community upcoming events include the Book Faire and Knight of the Bedtime Stories the week of Oct. 23rd.

Governance and Compliance

Local Indicators – CA Dashboard

Please see separate attachment of the CA Dashboard Report 2022 for OCS.

Strengths:

- Very low suspension rate
- High ELA rate
- Medium Math rate

Areas for Growth:

- Very high chronic absenteeism
- Standard not met for local indicators- Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities; Local Climate Survey; Access to a Broad Course of Study; Implementaiton of Academic Standards; Parent and Family Engagement.

Details:

Chronic Absenteeism:

Administration is implementing the following Action Plan to reduce chronic absenteeism in 23-24.

- 1) OCS' leadership revised this year's IS policy to allow for shorter term absences to allow more students to benefit from this learning option. Administration has worked quickly to offer and implement the IS policy/option to families when needed.
- 2) In addition, administration is updating attendance letters to include strategies to help families achieve better attendance based on the positive response we got from similar revisions to our tardy letters.
- 3) Administration is launching a full-pronged effort this year that involves the revised attendance letters, personalized outreach meetings with families that are struggling with attendance, and follow-up supports as needed to reduce chronic absenteeism for all sub-groups. OCS will

also use the SART as needed per the OCS Handbook. The goal is to make these schoolwide adjustments to address the overall issue while digging in with each subgroup through personalized meetings to understand the reasons for the chronic absenteeism and address them accordingly in ways that are meaningful to that particular family and subgroup, when trends across a subgroup are identified. Most notably, and consistent with data from across the country, the challenges of living at low-income levels exacerbate all issues, including getting students to school while balancing work obligations, transportation, and other life concerns. To the degree that OCS can support families with the complexities of their experiences, we are offering before school care, after school care, vacation camp/childcare (academic, social, and creative), tutoring and intervention, and counseling. OCS' goals are to decrease the percentage of students experiencing chronic absenteeism through these measures for all students as a whole and for each individual subgroup.

Local Indicators Not Met:

Although OCS did meet the local indicators and did submit the required data and narrative analysis on time to the state portal, the dashboard is indicating standard not met for local indicators because local indicators were not agendaized on the Board agenda for the same meeting as review and approval of the LCAP. Administration is exploring ways to get this indication changed as the indicators were met and the information was submitted on time, however it is possible that the state will not allow any changes. OCS did correct this situation in 22-23 by including local indicators and review and approval of the LCAP on the same Board agenda in June. CCSA is also looking into this issue with the state as many charter schools received a similar score on their dashboard reports. Traditional district public schools only receive academic scores on the dashboard; they do not receive local indicator scores. Dashboard reports are a key piece of the charter renewal process.

J-13A form:

OCS will be filing a J-13A form with the district and state due to the school closure on August 21st. The closure was due to the extreme weather conditions that led to both the State of Emergency declared by Governor Newsom for Southern California and LAUSD's decision to close all campuses also due to weather. The form is included with the Board meeting materials for review at this meeting and for a formal vote approval at the October Board meeting.

Williams Settlement:

OCS will again be part of the Williams inspections this school year. Inspections will occur in three areas:

- Facilities
- Instructional materials

- Credentialing

The facilities inspection occurred on 8/29/23. OCS received a perfect score of 100%. The administration applauds the efforts of our Maintenance Coordinator, Mr. Blair, and of our Campus Coordinator, Ms. Angela, for their efforts to again achieve this top score. Please see the attached report.

WASC Schoolwide Action Plan

- WASC visit: 4/15/24 and 4/16/24
- OCS Stakeholder groups: TK – 5th; 6th – 8th; admin; specialty teachers; students; support staff; DEIB com; Gov. com; Board; PC
- Incorporates Equity plan, LCAP, how our students are prepared for high school, how Waldorf and Common Core standards are integrated, rubrics

Summary of Goals:

Major Area 1: Positive School Climate

- Recruit and retain more diverse (BIPOC, low SES, ELs) students (LCAP Goal 6 and Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Core Principles)
- Enhance communication with and among parents about Waldorf Education, parenting, and child development (Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Core Principles)
- Establish and maintain an environmentally sustainable campus: single use plastic-free, low waste, recycling, and gardening
- Maintain a safe, clean, and orderly environment for our students. (LCAP goal 1)
- Develop an understanding in the teachers of child development based primarily on Steiner's work that guides all aspects of the educational program (from the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Core Principles)
- Foster healthy human relationships among all members of our community (from the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Core Principles)
- Increase Collaborative Leadership among Board, Administration, Faculty, Parents and Students (Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Core Principles)

Major Area 2: Educational Excellence

- Increase Latino, EL, and low-income pupil achievement in ELA and Math (LCAP goal 2)

- Maintain or improve our reclassification rate for EL students. (LCAP Goal 5)
- Maintain the growth in scores of students with special needs in both ELA and Math (LCAP Goal 3)
- Increase scores of socioeconomically disadvantaged students in both ELA and Math. (LCAP Goal 4)
- Develop Schoolwide Learner Outcomes
- Share principles and practices of Public Waldorf Education with the greater Southern California educational community
- Support our students and families as they navigate an increasingly digital world, especially as we emerge from over a year of distance learning, so they can make informed decisions about using technology (LCAP Goal 7)
- Maintain our school's unique Waldorf-informed practices and specialty program that support students' wholistic growth in the head, the heart, and the hands. (LCAP Goal 8)

Major Area 3: Financial Sustainability

- Increase foundation grants and private fundraising revenue
- Increase Annual Family Giving revenue
- Increase Grandparent Giving

California Charter School Association (CCSA)

OCS administration participates in regular CCSA update zooms regarding state legislation updates and advocacy for charter students as well as local updates with LAUSD. CCSA also helps charter schools network to learn from each other. In this vein, OCS administration met with Ingenium Schools' COO to share our story of seeking, finding, and building a permanent home for our school.

Finance

- UPK update (in Finance section)
- Coming to the Board in Nov. – ELOP plan, Arts and Music plan revision, and Prop 28 proposal
- Facility rentals update

Operations



Hiring:

We continue to look for aftercare staff to support our program.

Outreach & Enrollment

Events:

- Del Rey Day: neighborhood community event: Oct. 22, 10 – 4pm
- Coeur D'Alene Middle School Forum: 10/5
- Westchester Parents Nursery School' Kinderforum: 10/17

Partnerships:

- OCS has partnered with LMU's Marital and Family Therapy Master's program to match graduate student interns at local schools to support the counseling needs of their students. OCS is also partnering with LMU in their Lions for Learning Program that matches their work-study students with tutoring opportunities at local schools. We are eager for their students to begin supporting our aftercare students with tutoring.
- OCS will host the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education January conference in 2025. OCS and the Alliance will work collaboratively over the next year to plan a meaningful, relevant, renewing conference for all public Waldorf participants.