Directors’ Report

June 27, 2023

Reverence, enthusiasm, and a sense of guardianship, these three are actually the panacea, the magical remedy, in the soul of the educator and teacher.

[**Rudolf Steiner**](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/rudolf-steiner-quotes)

**Educational Program**

**2023 Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony**

OCS congratulates our fifty-five 2023 graduates who transitioned out of 8th grade on June 9th and took one step closer to high school. We know they are well prepared to meet the challenges ahead, and we will miss them terribly! Congratulations to all their parents for supporting and guiding their children through these formative years! Thank you to our fabulous 8th grade teachers, Ms. Brenan and Mr. Bearden, who beautifully led these students.

**State Testing:**

**California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)**

All 3rd-8th grade students took the CAASPP test during the month of May.

The results of the CAASPP will be shared at the August Board meeting.

**Internal Benchmark Assessments:**

**NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association)**

Students in grades 1st – 8th began took the third and final NWEA internal assessment following the CAASPP assessment at the end of the year.

Students were assessed in Language Arts and Math three times this school year.

**Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten Benchmark Assessments**

TK and Kindergarten children were assessed individually using the OCS TK/K

Benchmark test. The children were assessed in the fall and spring to determine progress.

**OCS Summer Institute**

OCS is hosting on-site public Waldorf teacher training this summer 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 Mariposa and El Rio 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.

**OCS Parent Education**

OCS is offering an opportunity for all TK-8th grade parents an opportunity to participate in a *Waldorf Painting Experience* with OCS Waldorf mentor, Ania Kubik, on Monday, June 26th, 4-5:15pm.

In addition, on Wednesday, June 28th, parents are invited to attend *A Conversation with TK-4th Grade Parents hosted by Waldorf Educator Anjum Mir: Summer rhythm, routine and activity that could support your child’s transition into next year*.

**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. Camp begins the week of June 26th and extends through July 28th.

**End of School Year Events**

**Rose Ceremony**

At the start of the year, 1st grade students received a rose from their 8th grade buddy in our Rose Ceremony held the first week of school. On our second to last day of school, the 1st graders say goodbye to their 8th grade buddy by presenting her or him with a rose! Each class shared a song or a recitation dedicated to the 8th grade graduates. In addition, goodbyes and gratitude was shared with faculty and staff members not returning to OCS next year.

**7th/8th Grade Rock Ceremony**

Each graduating 8th grade student found and beautifully hand painted a rock for a rising 8th student to symbolize the responsibility of becoming the lead class at Ocean Charter School. The 8th grade students presented a hand painted rock to each rising 8th grade student.

**Spring Concert**

The 4th and 5th grade Strings and Band Elective performed their Spring Concert on May 25th. The community enjoyed stellar Strings and Band performances led by our own Mr. Ghiglia. We thank the students and Mr. Ghiglia for their amazing work!

**Elective Presentations**

The sixth-eighth gradePercussion, Visual Arts, Newspaper, Photography, and Leadership students shared their work from the past semester on June 6th. Parents, students, staff, and faculty enjoyed the incredible live presentations, slideshows, and performances! We thank the students and Mr. Rivers, Mr. Gantcho, Mr. Blaine, Mr. Seth, and Ms. Aly for their incredible work!

**Eighth Grade Projects**

As a requirement for graduation, eighth grade students complete a yearlong research project on a passion topic. All eighth grade students presented their culminating project, including an oral presentation, power point presentation, research paper, and physical project. On May 23rd, the community was invited to a science fair-type experience where they were able to wander around seeing the projects and hearing students share about them and then led into full 15-minute presentations by four selected 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**

**Hanmi Bank Update**

On June 22nd, Hanmi Bank Senior Vice President, Ben Sottile contacted us to share that our dear friend and Hamni banker (EVP Special Lending**)**, Robert (Bob) Bartlett passed away on June 21st. Bob was instrumental in Ocean Charter School’s financial growth and success throughout the process of our campus building project. Bob was in attendance during Ocean Charter School’s groundbreaking celebration on February 28, 2018 where he happily broke ground with a handpainted shovel at the former Teledyne property. Fortunately, Bob was able to visit on March 3, 2023 for a tour of our beautiful Ocean Charter School campus. We will miss Bob and send our love to his family and colleagues at Hanmi Bank.

On May 23rd, Trustee, Mark Galanty and Executive Director, Stephanie Edwards had a meeting with Ben Sottile, Hanmi Bank Senior Vice President. Ben shared the news from the Specialty Lending Team that OCS should be able to start earning additional amounts in money market funds in both existing accounts at Hanmi Bank and in any new Money Market Account the school opens. Following our meeting, Ben shared that Hanmi Bank would be donating **$13,935** to Ocean Charter School. On June 12th, OCS received the donation via an ACH payment from Hanmi Bank. We thank our bankers Bob Bartlett and Ben Sottile for their generosity to Ocean Charter School.

**2023-2024 Proposed Budget**

The Finance Committee met on June 20th to finalize the 23-24 proposed budget for the Board’s review. The draft budget includes the following:

* Learning Recovery Block Grant – May Revise 32% reduction
* Arts & Music Block Grant – May Revise 50% reduction
* TK student to adult ratio 12:1, Class size 24 students
* ELO-P Protected
* Universal Meals Funded
* Enrollment 558
* COLA 8.22%
* Expense COLA 8.22%
* Salary 2.5%
* STRS employer rate 19.1%
* Prop 1D annual payment $466K
* Over allocation fee assumed $148K
* Fundraising assumption $404K
* Kept aftercare and enrichment assumes $429K the same rate as 22-23 budget
* Reductions made to one-time positions previously funded with COVID and Learning Loss: Keeping TK and Kinder aides and 6 other aides which are a combination of intervention and classroom assistants – maintain 10 aides out of 22 aides.
* Reduction of classified aides represent 45% cost reduction
* Waldorf summer training, internal/external mentors
* Specialty program assumes 2 staff at estimate rates (all new hires must have credential; any existing employees need to be enrolled June 30, 2024)
* 1-part time safety and maintenance position to handle evening and weekends facility use cost is ~$34K
* Insurance - $276K, which represents 11% increase from prior budget assumption in the 23-24 draft budget reviewed by Finance Comm in May 2023 final proposal from CharterSafe – general liability, Worker’s Com, Sex abuse & Molestation, student accident, Cyber Liability
* DSC Ratio: 1.26% - Hanmi Bank DSC Ratio Requirement 1.25%
* EBITDA $631,258 – Hanmi requirement is $625,000
* Ending cash 20% cash reserve or $1.3M as of 06/30/24
* Assumes May Revise SSC Rates
* 50% reduction of the Arts, Music, and Inst Materials Block Grant
* 32% Emergency Learning Loss Block Grant

**Operations**

**Faculty and staff hires**

Faculty and staff hires are still in process due to a few late announcements from employees not returning to OCS in the 2023-2024 school year.

**Outreach & Enrollment**

**New Parent Orientations – June 14th**

**Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten**

Ms. Edwards and the Kindergarten teaching team welcomed the new Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten families to Ocean Charter School. The presentation included what it means to join a public Waldorf community, including

adherence to the OCS Electronic Media Guidelines and Dress Code Guidelines.

There was a discussion about the importance sleep, a healthy bedtime routine, a nutrition, and the philosophy behind the use of open-ended materials to spark the imagination. Ms. Marlene and Ms. Kelley shared about items to bring to school and what should not come to school. Ms. Edwards shared the plan for each TK/K student to receive a *Little One*, a small hand crafted doll lovingly made by the parent Crafters. The teachers shared that the week prior to the start of school there wil be a TK/K Meet and Greet where the parents and children will be invited to meet their teacher and see the classroom.

**First – Eighth Grades**

Ms. Kristy held an orientation for the new families with students in grades 1-8.

The presentation included what it means to join a public Waldorf Community, including:

* A typical day in the life of an OCS grades student
* The cultivation of reverence and protection of childhood
* Camping trips and class plays
* Communicating with your child’s teacher
* School events
* Student expectations
* How to make a smooth transition for your child
* How to prepare this summer
* How to connect with other families
* Q & A

**Coming Events in 2023-2024:**

**(Please refer to the detailed master calendar for events, Board and committee meeting dates.)**

* August 10th, Thursday, **Ice Cream, 3:00-5:00pm**
* August 14th, Monday, **First Day of School –** Early Release!