

Director's Report

January 4, 2024

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

Public Waldorf

- Ongoing professional development with our teachers is key to fulfilling our mission to bring public Waldorf Education to our students. Many teachers are receiving individual Waldorf mentoring support. In addition, faculty meeting time is allocated to whole group Waldorf professional development. The attached slideshow was created by OCS class teacher Ms. Mendoza for one of our Waldorf professional development sessions. In that session, we focused primarily on meaningful and effective planning of main lessons.
- Alliance for Public Waldorf Education January Conference: 8 OCS teachers and administrators will attend this year's Alliance Conference in Sacramento hosted at the Golden Valley River School. Our group will visit a public Waldorf charter school in the area on Friday and then participate in the conference Friday evening through Sunday of the MLK weekend. We will share out with the full faculty at a following faculty meeting. The attendees will be part of planning for the 2025 Alliance Conference that OCS will host.

Local Indicators – CA Dashboard

2022

Strengths:

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

Areas for Growth:

- Very high chronic absenteeism (red)
- Standard not met for local indicators- Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities; Local Climate Survey; Access to a Broad Course of



Study; Implementation of Academic Standards; Parent and Family Engagement.

2023 (see [attached Dashboard 2023](#) report from the California Department of Education)

Strengths:

- Very low suspension rate
- High ELA rate (green)
- Medium Math rate (yellow)
- Chronic absenteeism declined by 20.6%, is now in yellow, now 20.7% compared to 41.3% in 2022
- All standards for local indicators met: Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities; Local Climate Survey; Access to a Broad Course of Study; Implementation of Academic Standards; Parent and Family Engagement.

School Climate Surveys for Parents, Students in 7th and 8th, and Employees:

OCS will conduct our first of two rounds of school climate surveys this school year in January. The surveys come from the California Health Kids Survey resources offered through the California Department of Education. Results from all 3 surveys will be shared with the Board at the February Board meeting.

Governance and Compliance

Annual Oversight Visit:

OCS' annual oversight visit by representatives from the LAUSD Charter School Division will be on January 24th this year. The visit involves oversight of four key areas: Governance; Student Achievement and Educational Performance; Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations; and Fiscal Operations. This annual visit and the resulting report are critical components of district oversight and of charter renewal. Charters are typically granted for 5 year terms but due to the pandemic, the state granted an additional two years to all charter terms making OCS' charter term from 2018 – 2025, instead of the original 2023 renewal date. During last year's oversight visit, OCS received the following strong scores. The [full Annual Performance-Based Oversight report is attached](#).

- ❖ Governance: 4, Accomplished
- ❖ Student Achievement and Educational Performance: 3, Proficient
- ❖ Organizational Management, Programs and Operations: 4, Accomplished
- ❖ Fiscal Operations: 3, Proficient

Preparation for the annual oversight visit in the form of document preparation and submission began in October for the administrative team and will continue into early February as follow up items after the actual visit are requested. Teachers are also involved in the visit as the team observes in classrooms and speaks with



both teachers and students about their lessons and work. Lesson plans and student created materials are shared to highlight how OCS addresses the CA standards through public Waldorf Education. These aspects of our program are considered in addition to the district's primary focus on standardized test scores (CAASPP).

Annual Diversity Benchmark Update:

The annual [OCS Diversity Benchmark update \(3 attachments\)](#) was submitted to the district in December. It includes the demographic breakdown of OCS' student population in Fall 2023 as compared to previous years and documentation of our outreach efforts. Over the years, OCS' percentages have not shifted much, although we did see a roughly 10% increase this year in lower income families.

Enrollment:

Tours continue at least once monthly, mostly during the school day, so interested parties can observe students and teachers in action and see our lovely campus. Learning what public Waldorf Education is through direct experience is the best way to understand what OCS offers our students. Hearing directly from teachers and students as they share their work and perspectives with touring families is priceless. The OCS lottery will be held in late February.

Finance

- Facility rental update: Administration is following up with interested parties in early January on information shared in mid-fall regarding facility rentals.
- OCS will prepare a draft Prop 28 plan for the February Board meeting once greater clarity is gained from the state, auditors and legal on the program requirements and limitations.

Community

Community Events:

- Winter Faire: This year's Winter Faire, chaired again by parent volunteer Jennifer Lupoi, was a huge success. Children and adults alike delighted in the faire atmosphere and offerings that captured the spirit of the season and holidays. Live music, arts and crafts, food and drinks, and good cheer were abundant! The event is also one of OCSA's largest fundraisers and exceeded the goal in this year's budget of \$27,063 by bringing in \$29,226 as of mid December. Thanks to the Board members for hosting the Life at OCS room where visitors could see the beautiful student-created materials on display in our library.
- Winter Spirals: Every class, TK – 8th grade, walked the winter spiral with gentle live music played by either a parent musician or OCS Strings and Band teacher, Mr. Ghiglia. The children exhibited reverence and the ability to find stillness as they collectively found and shared their light in the

darkened room. Parents were also invited to walk the spiral on Wednesday evening to experience what their children experience and to celebrate their light.

- Candle Dipping: All students participated in candle dipping, taking in the rich smell of melted beeswax and the rhythmic calm of the dipping process. Thanks again to our parent volunteers for making it happen!
- Faculty and Staff Holiday Party: Teachers and staff came together to celebrate the holiday season and each other with food, music, and good cheer on our last day of school in December. Holding the party when all employees were truly available to attend meant we had one of our largest gatherings ever and that the spirit of inclusion in honoring all of our dedicated faculty and staff was at the core of our gathering.
- High School Info Night: OCS administration and alumni parents held our annual parent education event via zoom to share about various high school options and the process some of our families have gone through in deciding which school is right for their child. This event is followed by our annual Alumni Night, typically in February, where a panel of OCS alumni share their experiences of transitioning from OCS into a wide variety of high school settings.
- More Than Sex Ed parent talk: OCS continues to support our parents and caregivers in understanding our approach to teaching human development and sex ed through the grades. Each loop level has a specific parent education night hosted by More Than Sex Ed to learn what the students will be learning in class and to ask questions and get support as parents navigating and guiding their children in these key areas of development.
- Upcoming Parent Education events: In the second half of the year, OCS will offer parent education events focused on understanding our specialty programs with our specialty teachers and Waldorf parenting with Waldorf teacher and mentor, Anjum Mir.