

# OCEAN CHARTER SCHOOL FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS

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## **I. Who We Are**

Ocean Charter School (OCS) is one of the largest Public Waldorf Schools in the United States, with over 570 students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. We are dedicated to delivering a unique, arts-integrated curriculum and to cultivating a community of lifelong learners.

Since our opening in 2004, we have prioritized building and retaining a strong faculty. All OCS teachers are credentialed with the California Commission on Teachers Credentialing, approximately half of our teachers have completed a Waldorf certification and 100% of the administrative directors have Waldorf certification. It is a requirement at Ocean Charter School that full time faculty pursue Waldorf certification. Teachers remains probationary until they achieve full Waldorf certification. In addition, our faculty attend grade-level training in Waldorf educational methods each summer to enhance their skills and expertise. Our specialty instruction program augments our rich, arts-based curriculum and remains fundamental to our success. It includes Japanese, music, games, woodworking and handwork.

## **VISION AND MISSION**

### **Ocean Charter School Vision**

OCS is a community of families and educators using Waldorf teaching methods to nurture and educate children in a multicultural, urban environment. We are committed to achieving academic excellence through experiential learning and enhancing the growth of curiosity and imagination through the rigorous practice of an arts-integrated curriculum. This approach addresses the whole child, promoting the development of healthy, responsible and creative human beings. Our graduates have the vision, desire, and skills to live meaningful lives, balance technology and humanity and create a sustainable and equitable future.

## Ocean Charter School Mission

OCS addresses the Common Core Standards through the mindful implementation of public Waldorf education. Our curriculum is built on a foundation of creativity, equity and self-confidence that grows with each child to balance imagination, critical thinking and academic excellence. This foundation, combined with a focus on ecological and cultural responsibility, nurtures a sense of delight and wonder about the world, as well as stewardship of nature and humanity. Our goal is to graduate students who will positively shape our society, rather than merely reflecting it. Our curriculum is designed to provide support, access and opportunity to empower students with the knowledge they matter as individuals and shapes not only their own lives, but, ultimately, our shared future.

## II. A Short History

OCS' initial charter was approved by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in 2003. A small group of passionate parents and educators intent on bringing a Waldorf Education into the public sector spearheaded the initiative. To prepare for the school's opening, parents, children and community members hauled rocks, painted classrooms, and planted greenery, transforming an unremarkable site into a beautiful, environmentally attuned school in just a few weeks. OCS's doors opened to students in the fall of 2004 on the Del Rey site with 220 students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade. Over the last decade and a half, we have grown to over 520 students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. Our community has grown larger but family engagement continues to be the bedrock of our school.

In 2006, LAUSD first granted OCS a site under Proposition 39 to accommodate our upper grades. From 2013-2020, we used various sites to house OCS grades 4 through 8. Occupying two sites was taxing financially and difficult logistically. In the spring of 2011, the state awarded OCS funds under Proposition 1D to build a permanent campus. LAUSD subsequently awarded OCS an additional grant for a grand project total of approximately \$75M. The new site, whose design, structures and landscaping reflect the values of our Waldorf programming, will be ready for use in 2021.

### **III. A Strong Institution**

Ocean Charter School continues to thrive with the financial support of our families and numerous institutions. We have maintained fiscal health and stability in the face of ever-shifting state funding through a combination of tough decision-making, fiscal conservativeness and generous contributions. Additionally, we have maintained sufficient cash reserves to ensure a smoothly run program that can meet all its obligations, regardless of state funding deferrals.

### **IV. Strategic Goals**

The OCS Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and our Parent Collective have developed the following strategic goals to strengthen our institution, further our mission, and serve as a center for public Waldorf education.

#### **1. Financial Sustainability:**

- School leadership will work to increase financial support for programs, staff and site development. The OCS Board of Trustees, administration, and Parent Collective will cultivate broader philanthropic relationships, increase grant writing and build the Capital Campaign to raise additional funds for OCS' new home.

#### **2. Educational Excellence:**

- OCS will deepen our work with the seven Core Principles of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education through increased training of our faculty in Waldorf pedagogy and Steiner's view of child development.
- OCS will obtain full accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

- OCS will continue to perform at a higher rate on state standardized tests as compared to the State of California, to our authorizing district, and to our students' resident schools. We will strive to increase the percentage of students scoring at or above standard on state assessments, overall and within sub-groups.

### **3. Diversity, Equity and Outreach:**

- With support from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, OCS administration will increase the diversity at OCS to reflect the demographics of the communities we serve through outreach efforts and by promoting diversity and equity at events and within our curriculum. Our goal is to attract and retain families, faculty and staff of diverse backgrounds.
- The OCS administration, board of trustees, faculty and community will prioritize sustaining an equitable, culturally competent school environment and work toward becoming an actively anti-racist institution.

### **4. Waldorf Education in the Greater Community:**

- OCS will become a hub of education and learning for the Southern California public Waldorf school community.
- OCS will continue to develop the Ocean Charter Institute (OCI). OCI will offer Waldorf teacher training programs focused on Waldorf education in the public school setting.
- OCS and OCI will collaboratively host lectures, workshops and other educational events.
- OCS and OCI will mentor start-up public Waldorf programs in the greater Los Angeles area.

## **5. Environmental Sustainability**

- OCS will work toward carbon neutrality.
- OCS will work toward becoming a plastic free campus.
- OCS will increase efforts to reduce waste, reuse materials and recycle.
- OCS will continue to develop relationships with community partners for events such as neighborhood and beach cleanups.
- OCS' new campus will meet CHIPS sustainability standards.