

Director's Report

February 6, 2025

Receive the children in reverence.
Educate them with love.
Send them forth in freedom.
~ Rudolf Steiner

Educational Program

Professional Development:

Deepening OCS' Commitment to Public Waldorf Education:

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education: The Alliance Conference was cancelled due to the fires. No decision has yet been made if it will be rescheduled or regarding next year's conference.

OCS Summer Institute: OCS released our Summer Institute teacher training flier and registration link this week to other Southern California Waldorf schools and to the Alliance. See the attached flier.

Building Bridges: The next Building Bridges in-person session for our 13 participating teachers is Feb. 15 – 17th and will focus on research and self development with Deborah Dornemann and visual arts with Nikki Moon Shoneman.

Common Core Professional Development:

ELA:

Intervention teacher, Mr. Kim, and Ms. Megan are attending the Literacy Lifts conference this Friday. <https://laoe.k12oms.org/1540-253438>

Mr. Kim and Ms. Megan are also attending the Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener for Administrators webinar in Feb and March.
<https://laoe.k12oms.org/1540-260072>

Math: Mrs. Jacob, upper grades Math Teacher, and Ms. Atkinson, Math Intervention Teacher, will attend the UCLA Math Project's CGI 2025 Regional Conference in May.

Social-Emotional Learning:

Ms. Megan attended the SEL Strategies to Empower Students and Educators Through a Multi-Tiered Approach presented by Malika Ali, Chief Innovation Officer, Throughline Learning.



Faculty is having two sessions with Barbara Ollinger <https://barbaraollinger.info/about-barbara/> who is also working with parents for two sessions. Her work with faculty is focusing on SEL in the classroom community and communicating with parents.

CA Dashboard Reports: (see attached)

The attached reports for 2023 and 2024 summarize the California Dashboard information for Academic Performance, Academic Engagement, Climate and Conditions and Local Indicators for OCS. Below is a comparison of these two years.

CA DASHBOARD RESULTS COMPARISON

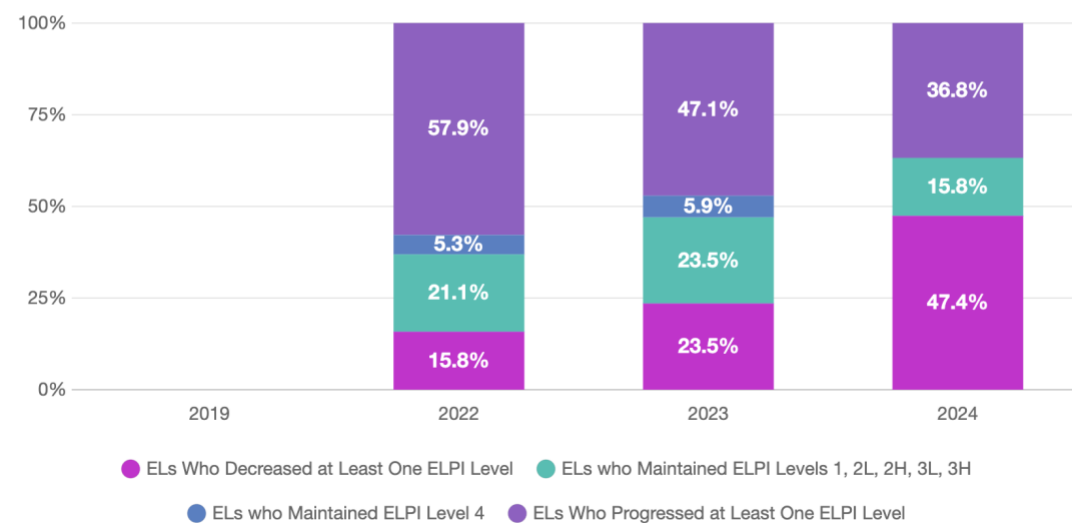
	2023	2024
Chronic Absenteeism	Yellow	Yellow (declined 12.5%)
Suspension	Blue	Yellow -
ELA All Students	Green	Green =
ELA Students with Disabilities	Red	Yellow +
ELA Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students	Orange	Green +
ELA Hispanic Students	Green	Orange -
ELA Students of Two or More Races	Green	Green =
ELA White Students	Green	Green =
Math All Students	Yellow	Green +
Math Students with Disabilities	Red	Yellow +
Math Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students	Orange	Green +
Math Hispanic Students	Green	Yellow -
Math Students of Two or More Races	Orange	Orange =
Math White Students	Green	Green =
Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities	met	met
Implementation of Academic Standards	met	met
Parents and Family Engagement	met	met
Local Climate Survey	met	met

Access to a Broad Course of Study	met	met
Science	No data	No performance color in 2024; performance color coming in 2025
Enrollment	552	561
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	16.5%	27.1%
English Learners	3.4%	5%
Foster Youth	0%	0%

Student English Language Acquisition Results

Summative ELPAC

The percentage of current EL students who progressed at least one ELPI level, maintained ELPI level 4, maintained lower ELPI levels (i.e, levels 1, 2L, 2H, 3L, or 3H), or decreased at least one ELPI Level.



Operations

Enrollment:

OCS received 641 applications prior to the lottery deadline for 2025-26. This is 102 more applications than received last year.

Attendance:

Many students and staff have been out sick due to a variety of illnesses, including: Covid, Influenza A, Strep Throat, and Norovirus. Our ADA is affected as are our substitute costs.

Los Angeles Fires and the State of Emergency:

Fire Response and Ongoing Impacts

- OCS had very low attendance on Jan. 8th, the day after the fires began. OCS was closed due to the State of Emergency and mandatory LAUSD closures on Jan. 9th and 10th. School reopened on Jan. 13th, however attendance was lower than normal. OCS is applying for a J13A waiver for both closure days and for one or both low attendance days, pending guidance on our eligibility for the second day.
- OCS has benefitted from ongoing guidance, support and resources regarding the fires and their impacts provided both by CCSA and LACOE. Resources for families and staff impacted by the fires have been shared including temporary housing, mental health support, legal assistance, and more. A number of OCS families immediately responded to the call for temporary housing by offering their homes to those in need.
- OCS conducted a housing survey immediately following the fires for all families and staff to help identify needs post the fires. Our Homeless Liaison has followed up with those identifying needs to offer supports and services.
- OCS continues to monitor our local air quality using data from the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Purple Air daily.
- Readings from 1 - 99 (green and yellow) mean students can be outside for recess and other activities. Reading from 100 and above mean OCS moves to indoor protocols.
- However, both before school starting at 7:30am and for all recess times, students have an option to be indoors. For TK/K, a classroom is available. For 1st - 8th grade, either the Library or the Gym is open before school and during recess times.

- Recent maintenance/service of our MERV 13 air filters was completed in November with another service call immediately after the fires. Ongoing maintenance is scheduled.
- OCS is engaging an industrial hygienist through Halliwell to inspect the campus and advise on steps OCS can take to maintain the safest environment possible post the fires.
- OCS has purchased a Purple Air exterior air sensor to get local readings. We expect installation in the two weeks.
- OCS will continue with these protocols for the foreseeable future. Administration will update the community if they change.
- OCS has filed a claim with our facility insurance carrier through CharterSafe with McLarens to recoup as much of the costs of the fire impact as possible.
- OCS submitted a FEMA claim to also recoup as much of the costs of the fire impact as possible.
- Per Executive Order N-6-25, schools are to enroll students affected by the fires immediately. OCS has received a number of applications from families affected by the fire to varying degrees. Each situation is being considered on a case by case basis per guidance with offers being extended appropriately per the Executive Order. Teachers are prepared to welcome and support incoming students and families. OCS administration has received guidance from the LAUSD Charter Schools Division, the California Charter School Association (CCSA), and legal (YMC) regarding the Executive Order.
- As many schools and families have lost their entire facilities and homes, thousands of people in LA and entire communities have been devastated by the fires. And the ongoing impacts are still unfolding. OCS wants to support those directly impacted as much as possible so offered a space in our gym for a healing gathering with Baba the Storyteller for the Westside Waldorf Community on Saturday evening, Feb. 1st. OCS will be hosting a Public Talk for Parents and Caregivers by the Emergency Pedagogy Without Borders USA team on

Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 6:30 – 8pm. All are welcome. OCS has also supported Westside Waldorf's efforts to continue to serve their students despite losing their campus by sharing student and teacher supplies.

Facilities: Williams Inspection

OCS' initial Williams facility inspection uncovered an issue with one of the toilets in the student restroom. It was immediately repaired by a district-approved vendor with coordination by our new Maintenance Coordinator, Ms. Claire. The inspector will return for a final, follow-up inspection.

Charter Renewal

Work on OCS charter renewal in 2025-26 will begin this Spring. Administration is attending workshops with CCSA to learn about new requirements in the renewal process as well as to understand the landscape at LAUSD for renewals. Recently, the district has denied renewals for a number of charters. These schools were in the low or middle performing tiers based on CAASPP test scores.

SARC

An extension has been granted to all LA schools for their SARC submission, however OCS' SARC is nearly complete. After the Board review, final edits will be made and it will be submitted to the state.

PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident

Please see the attached letter sent to all OCS families and employees regarding the PowerSchool cybersecurity incident.

Compliance: Legal Guidance on Policies and Notices 2025

Administration attended a YMC training on legal updates to policies and notices in the realms of Student Services, Employment, Fiscal and Board Governance for 2025. The list is vast and growing of required and recommended policies and notices, including but not limited to the following:

Policies:

Section 504 Plans; Special Education; Education of Foster and Mobile Youth policy; Education of Homeless Children; Suicide Prevention; Title IX and



complaint procedures; Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying policies; Uniform Complaint policy; Student Freedom of Speech and Expression; Educational Records and Student Information; Universal School Meals; School Wellness; Parent and Family Engagement; Student Use of Technology/Internet Safety; Tobacco-Free School; Independent Study; Use of Smartphones; Extreme Weather Conditions; Recess Policy; Public Records Act; School Safety Plan; Suspension and Expulsion; Screening for Reading Difficulties; Administration of Medications; Immunizations; Human Trafficking Prevention; Student Accidents; Limitations on Restraint and Seclusion of Students; Search and Seizure; Service Animals; Promotion and Retention; Sexual Education and HIV Prevention; Student Study Team; GATE; English Language Learners; School Sponsored Field Trips and Cultural Excursions Policy; Cell Phones, Pagers, and Other Electronic Signaling Devices; Attendance; Volunteer, Visitation, and Removal; Dress Code; Use of Information Learned from Social Media; Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interactions; General Complaints policy; Homework

Annual Notices:

Most of the policies have notice requirements. In addition, annual notices are required for:

Mental Health Services; Involuntary Removal Process; Physical Examination and Right to Refuse; Pregnant and Parenting Students; State Testing – CAASPP; Surveys about Personal Beliefs; Right to ask for teacher qualifications; Oral Health Assessment; Diabetes Type 1; HPV/Cancer Prevention; Diabetes Type II; Sexual Health Education; Human Trafficking Prevention; Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Automated External Defibrillators; Concussion and Head Injuries; Opioid Information; CA Healthy Kids Survey; Notice of Labor Rights for students applying for work permits; Notice of dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate courses; Oral Health Assessment

Website Postings:

Many of these notices and policies must be posted on the school's website.

School Climate

OCS' Equity Plan

OCS's Equity Plan spans 2022 – 2025. As we enter 2025, it is time to reflect on the first three years of the plan and begin preparing for the next phase of our plan. The plan includes 4 community groups: Students, Parents/Caregivers, Faculty, and Administration/Leadership. Each group went through a process of self-reflection and consideration of the OCS community as a whole to generate goals. The faculty has already started the new process by taking a survey to reflect on their progress on their goals and to inform their future goals. A similar process will happen with the Student and Parents/Caregivers community groups. The Board, as part of the Administrative/Leadership group, may want to agendize discussion of these goals and/or conduct a survey like the other, larger groups.



For Board consideration is the incorporation of another community group in the process that would be Staff. The DEIB Committee will be pursuing work on the Equity Plan on an ongoing basis moving forward and welcomes Board collaboration. OCS' discussion and possible actions around being a safe haven for all students will play a critical role in this work.

Events

Alumni night: OCS hosted our annual Alumni Night on Monday, Feb. 3rd. A panel of 10 alumni, including 2 seniors, shared about their experiences in high school and their transition from OCS to high school. Many alumni showed up who were not on the panel simply to see each other and visit OCS. It is always heartwarming to see them and hear how they are doing, and to know they feel an ongoing connection with our school. Roughly 35 current students and parents attended the event and asked thoughtful questions of our panel.

Black History Month Art Crawl and Assembly: On February 11th, OCS will host our BHM Art Crawl and Assembly. All classes will have time to see the artwork generated at each grade level that will be on display in the gym. The larger community can also view it afterschool that day. Grades 4th – 8th will participate in our BHM assembly with Mr. Rivers in the afternoon. Students in younger grades may also attend afterschool with their parents, however it is geared for older students. Several OCS students will be sharing poetry at the assembly and the OCS Peace Players will perform as well as Mr. Rivers.

Grandparents' Day/Valentine's Day: OCS will host our annual Grandparents' Day on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th. Grandparents will visit classrooms, play at recess with their grandchild/ren, and gather for a short presentation about our school's program and needs as well as see a student performance by our three 4th grade classes.

Open House: Open House is at the end of February and is designed to give students and families a look up into the coming grades as well as a look back for those in the oldest grades. All classrooms TK – 8th will be open and teachers will be available to answer general questions about our pedagogy and curriculum. Parent Collective volunteers will be available to share about volunteer possibilities.

Beach Clean: Leadership Elective students and administration are attempting to put together a Beach Clean event this year. Our work involves attempts to secure buses through local government grants as well as monitoring the health and safety of a beach clean up in light of the fires.



Renewal Camp: As part of OCS' Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), we are offering 4 days of camp during our February renewal week break. At this time, registration is low (under 20 students).

Parent Education

OCS' parent education and support program this year involves monthly coffee with the Directors, parent circles, pedagogical talks and parenting coaching. Our most recent presenter was Barbara Ollinger <https://barbaraollinger.info/about-barbara/> who brings a wealth of experience and training in parent work through her work as a family therapist and school/program parent education leader. Her first parent talk focused on setting boundaries. Her second talk will focus on triggers. Barbara is also offering two sessions with faculty focused on SEL and working with parents.