



March 20, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS families,

We woke up this morning to new rules for California.

The governor issued a statewide order in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Everyone is now required to stay home, except to get food or groceries, care for a friend or relative, seek health care, or go to an essential job. If you go out, adhere to social distancing protocols and keep at least six feet of distance from other people.

Here at OVS, we will be adhering to the new rules while continuing our distance learning plans that went into effect this week. Earlier today we sent surveys to parents and students to seek constructive feedback and learn more about what resources families may need, or have to give, during this challenging time.

From an academic standpoint, the transition to online classes happened in mere days, and we could not be prouder of the teachers and students who embraced this change with patience, creativity, hard work, and good humor. Current junior Adam Pepper-Macias (L17) provided a hilarious [Guide to Navigating Distance Learning](#) on the student journalism website On The Hill. We've shared fun videos and contests on social media, and we are excited to debut our first [Virtual All-School](#) from Lower Campus today.

Laughs are part of what we need right now - especially as we strive to maintain a sense of community, develop new routines, and adjust to new ways of connecting with each other.

We will continue to send communications and provide updated resources for parents on our website. We want you to know that we are committed to taking care of our community members, including all of our employees. While our school buses may not be running, and our kitchens are closed, our entire staff is being paid during this temporary closure.

We recognize the current health situation is rapidly changing and poses a significant economic threat to many of our families. Our goal is to get through this together, knowing that it will get better. One of the benefits of being a 109-year-old school is we know we've weathered difficult events in the past. This is truly an unprecedented one, but we will prevail.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Hall-Mounsey, Craig Floyd,

Gary Gartrell,

VIRTUAL ALL-SCHOOL Watch What Happens When Mahon and Gartrell Socially Isolate

As part of our commitment to staying engaged with the school community while distance learning, Mr. Mahon and Mr. Gartrell, with the assistance of faculty and staff, bring you the FIRST virtual All-School from the Lower Campus. (Spoiler Alert: This video includes images of Mr. Mahon ... on a pony). Follow the link below or check [YouTube!](#)



[VIEW VIDEO](#)

SPUDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA Challenges, Trivia, and More!

Thank you to everyone who played "OVS Jeopardy" in our Instagram stories! Mr. Gartrell and Mr. Floyd had hundreds of responses to their quiz on important names, dates and locations around the Upper and Lower campuses.



We'll be posting more fun videos and issuing new challenges in the coming days, so be sure to follow us on Instagram (@ojaivalleyschool), and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/OjaiValleySchoolAdmissions).

We also announced the winners of The Best Distance Learning Desk Contest! Congrats to Pako, Kiki, AJ, Mason, and Stirling! Great job, guys.

[FOLLOW OVS ON INSTAGRAM](#)



MUSICAL CHALLENGE

Sing with OVS!

Did you know that research shows listening to music and singing together positively impacts neuro-chemicals in the brain and creates a sense of social closeness? Well, it's true, and we want to create a sense of closeness even while social distancing. So, we have a musical challenge for you: We invite you to record yourself singing the Elton John classic "I'm Still Standing" (also featured in the movie "Sing").

There are just a few instructions: 1. We need a clear head shot of you in the video. 2. We want to hear only your vocals (no background track). 3. We need you to sing the entire song. (Hint: It might be easiest to listen with headphones and sing along to the track). That's it! Please upload your music videos by Monday evening. We will edit and share the video next week. Here's a [link to a back track to help you!](#)

[UPLOAD YOUR VIDEO HERE](#)



THE MATHEMAGICIAN

Junior Mark Pindur is a top scholar and standout mathematician. Before we moved to distance learning, Mark has demonstrated just how much he loves math by rallying together a group of students to showcase their skills in math competitions. Read more in a student profile by junior Oliver Chen on the student journalism website, On The Hill.

[READ MORE](#)



AND SOME GOOD NEWS...

This week our 25 seniors hit new heights with 125 acceptances from colleges and universities around the nation -- and there's more to come! The list includes small liberal arts colleges, large universities, and elite tech schools, including Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Colorado College, Pepperdine University, Boston College, Bard College, Reed College, UC schools, and more. Way to go Class of 2020!



