



May 22, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

We have come to the end of a truly unprecedented school year, not just in our OVS history but our world history. Across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced more than one billion students out of school. We have been fortunate. Thanks to a resilient and dedicated faculty, we were able to keep teaching and our students were able to keep learning, albeit online and without the personal connections that make the OVS experience so great. We know this is temporary and we are already looking ahead to the start of the 2020-21 academic year and the return to in-person classes.

But first we have the important task of recognizing our students during our traditional events and ceremonies. We are committed to continuing all the important year-end rituals, from the hike to White Rocks to our 12th grade commencement, even if we have to take these events online to maintain the social distancing and health protocols of our current times. Next week, we will send more detailed information by grade level and provide links to all these virtual events. We've enclosed a quick look at the calendar below.

As we close the school year, we would like to thank the Classes of 2020. Our 8th graders and 12th graders will hear much more from us next week, but we truly cannot say enough about their strength of character during this crisis. These students embraced the school philosophy of balance and symmetry in a way we never could have imagined, and we know their positive legacy will always be remembered.

Have a great weekend.

Craig Floyd,
Head of School, Upper Campus

Gary Gartrell,
Head of School, Lower Campus

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Please note the following important events:

Saturday, May 23

Final exams begin at Upper Campus and continue next week. Today was the last day of

regular classes and the conclusion of AP exams.

Monday, May 25, and Tuesday, May 26

Elementary students will have regular classes. Middle School students will meet virtually to work on special events. On Tuesday, the 8th graders will meet online for a graduation rehearsal followed by the traditional 8th Grade Breakfast at 10:30 a.m. (This event will include presentations from some very special guests.)



Wednesday, May 27

Virtual Promotions for students in grades PK-7 will be released by video at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 28

The 8th Grade Graduation will take place at 5:00 p.m. This will be a live streamed event, similar to how we presented the talent shows last week, and students will be involved in this interactive presentation. Also on Thursday, the Upper Campus will present the Virtual Awards Ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 29

We will recognize the graduating seniors during the Upper Campus Graduation at 7:00 p.m. This will also be a live streamed event, with some recorded contributions from our 24 graduating seniors. Again, families will be sent links to all these events next week.

SENIOR-TO-ALUMNI DINNER

The Senior-to-Alumni Dinner tradition continued yesterday evening with an inspiring GoogleMeet with alum Ousmane Fofana (U09), who joined the Class of 2020 from his home in Washington DC. Ousmane, a graduate of Howard University who recently completed his master's degree in foreign service at Georgetown, shared remembrances from his four years at OVS and how he felt more than prepared for college when he graduated in 2009.



The Senior-to-Alumni Dinner is a tradition started several years ago in which the seniors gather for a casual pizza dinner and listen to a presentation from an alum about what lies ahead after graduation. There may not have been pizza, but last night's get-together included an inspiring message from Ousmane to our grads: "You are the future leaders of this world. Your voices matter. Your opinions matter. And it's important to truly never settle for being comfortable... Always push the envelope, and always seek out different opinions. Never stop being curious."

VIRTUAL ALL-SCHOOL

This week, we bring you an ode to the 8th grade Class of 2020. We are so proud of everything this class has accomplished. Join us for a trip down memory lane, a spotlight on the classroom, and for messages from your teachers! Enjoy!

[VIEW VIDEO](#)



STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Upper Campus students launched virtual campaigns last week to show their desire to serve the community. Some races came down to just one vote between the candidates. Congratulations to all the participants. Here are the 2020-21 Student Council leaders:

President: Mark Pindur

Vice President: Gabe Weisiger (L17)

Treasurer: Bob Chen (L17)

Secretary: Jocelyn Gonzalez (L17)

Outdoor Representative: Andrew Thacher (L17)

Weekend Representative: Kanna Terunuma

Day Student Representative: Derek Mendoza

Sustainability Representative: Bella Slosberg (L17)

Public Relations/Athletic Representative: Oliver Chen

BIKE TOUR

Ms. Woll's biggest bike tour yet departed from Lower Campus this afternoon and peddled around Ojai to greet families from a distance and spread some community cheer. We hope this brought some smiles to our students. It did for our teachers.

Have a great weekend!

