



May 8, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

As part of our mission to educate the whole child, we believe in honoring the contributions of every student through promotion and graduation ceremonies. This is not only an opportunity for students to be recognized for their individual accomplishments, but it is also an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of the class as a whole.

While the realities of social distancing require us to modify these traditions, we refuse to let our students go unnoticed and uncelebrated. To this end, we will be recognizing all students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade in virtual ceremonies from the Lower Campus.

We will publish our promotion ceremonies for PK-7th grade on Wednesday, May 27 at 5:00 p.m. We will begin our livestream virtual graduation for our 8th grade on Thursday, May 28 at 5:00 p.m. We are still working out our stream providers and will reach out to you soon for details on how to watch these ceremonies. We hope you can save the date and plan a family night to celebrate student achievement and the conclusion of the school year.

At the Upper Campus, we will be recognizing our students' academic achievements on Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. with a livestream virtual awards ceremony. On Friday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m., we will broadcast our high school graduation ceremony, celebrating the Class of 2020. Please plan on being a part of the two nights of celebration and recognition of the Upper Campus students. Like the Lower Campus, we are still working out our stream providers and will reach out to you soon for details on how to watch these ceremonies.

In planning for the end of the year, it has been critical to reach out to the students about the events and experiences they value most. We have listened, learned, and taken action. We have increased our efforts to recover our end-of-year traditions in a virtual environment. We are working hard to finalize yearbooks, and both the 8th grade and 12th grade classes have been innovative in modifying their traditions to fit the times. These students know how to lead by example.

Not to be outdone by their younger peers, however, the elementary students have continued their "upward downward" tradition in a virtual format. Students will meet next year's teachers and learn about the special events, field trips, and academic projects unique to each grade. We are excited to be planning for the future together.

Have a great weekend.

Craig Floyd,
Head of School, Upper Campus

Gary Gartrell,
Head of School, Lower Campus

MAPPING THE CLASS OF 2020

Senior Avery Colborn (L16), editor-in-chief of the Upper Campus newspaper *On The Hill*, developed a super-cool interactive map that details the college choices of the Class of 2020. Avery's work is exceptional, as are the stories of our seniors who are bravely forging ahead in these uncertain times. Please click the link below to enjoy. And, if it has been awhile since you have perused [On The Hill](#), we encourage you do so. Our student-journalists are producing excellent stories featuring students, staff and parents on both campuses. They have been working hard to chronicle events, big and small, in this new world we all find ourselves navigating.



[READ MORE](#)

MAKING MASKS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

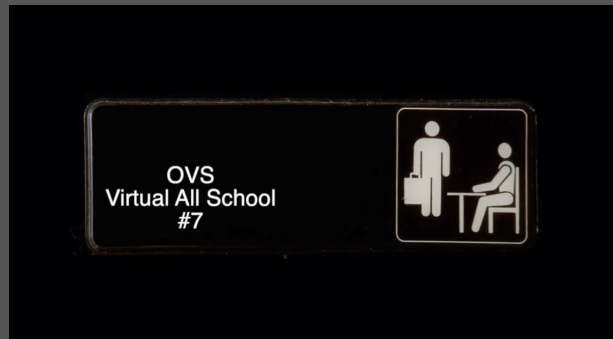
After a huge shortage of medical supplies during the current pandemic, several members of the OVS community have been using their sewing skills to make homemade masks for those in need. Read more about our community heroes in a story by senior Aaron Wolf (L16) in [On The Hill](#).



[READ MORE](#)

REMOTE ALL-SCHOOL

This week in our Remote All School #7, we bring you a dynamic "Spotlight on the Classroom" that focuses on innovative teaching in middle school math. We also caught Mr. Mahon channeling his inner Darth Vader on May 4. Check out Office Talk and a special announcement from Mr. Street joined by some very special guests.



[VIEW VIDEO](#)

COOKING WITH THE HEAD

When Craig Floyd became Head of School at Upper Campus he started hosting class dinners, inviting the freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to his house for home-cooked meals. Now, we bring you the first two episodes of "Cooking with the Head," a new video series that begins with grilled cheese sandwiches and hot dogs. Said Mr. Floyd: "It's fun to share some of the things I enjoy and am doing more of in this pandemic." Enjoy!



[VIEW VIDEO #1](#)

[VIEW VIDEO #2](#)

OVS TALENT SHOWS

On Friday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m., the Lower Campus will host its first livestream talent show! There will be singers, dancers and acts that will inspire, amaze, and entertain. This is a must-see event including celebrity judges, the talent of our students, and you can bet Mr. Street has a few surprises for us all to enjoy.



On Saturday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m., the Upper Campus will broadcast its annual Festival of Talent which celebrates the arts through music, photography, ceramics, painting and drawing. More details will be sent next week regarding how to watch these two wonderful events.

LOOKING AHEAD

The last day of class for elementary students will be May 26. The last academic day for middle school students will be May 22, with May 25-27 saved as time to finalize graduation and promotion preparation, participate in the 8th grade breakfast, complete time capsules, virtually tour White Rocks and complete the OVS tradition of Boney Bean. The Upper Campus will complete final exams on Thursday, May 28.



On the logistics front, we are developing a plan to help students drop-off laptops, library books, textbooks, and clean out lockers and retrieve property from classrooms. We will reach out shortly to communicate this plan. Please know, if you have a pressing need to retrieve an item from campus we will accommodate you the best we can while remaining in compliance with social distancing guidelines. Reach out to the front offices and we will schedule a pickup time.

