



July 3, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

Our Summer Camp opened this week and it has been a joy to hear the noise and laughter of excited and enthusiastic students back on campus once more.

An early lesson I learned shortly after arriving at OVS was to never underestimate the capabilities and resourcefulness of children, and that lesson has proven true over the years of teaching generations of Spuds. OVS students are resilient and adaptable. I remember on one of my first class hikes, we all had a pack check. One highly organized student reminded me to bring my hat and sunscreen, another to fill my water bottle and get a sack lunch. Soon I was up to speed and ready with the class for our orientation. The students were asked to remind the parents and teachers accompanying the campers on what to expect.

"Walk in single file and leave a space in line."

"Don't go off the trail."

"Don't pick any plants."

"Drink at the scheduled water breaks."

"Leave no trace."

"Offer snacks and food, don't ask for them," and many more.

I was impressed especially as my group of hikers were third graders.

As the OVS community prepares the campuses, classrooms, and facilities to welcome back our students in person this fall, I am optimistic that the COVID-19 precautions and protective measures will be accepted and followed by our capable and caring students for as long as needed. Daily life routines and teaching practices will be different, but will not faze our students.

Throughout the upcoming days and weeks as we prepare for the children to return to campus, the safety and wellness of each student will be our priority. As when we take even the youngest students out into the wilderness, coming back to campus under the current health directives will be thoughtfully planned and executed.

We all look forward to seeing them back on campus, and hearing that laughter, in the fall.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey
Ojai Valley School
President/CEO

UPDATE ON REOPENING
PLANS

We've been measuring classrooms, testing new technology and developing new learning models for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. Please understand this is uncharted territory. But here's what we know now about the reopening of school:

- We will be open in September for in-person classes, five days a week, while adopting new health and safety protocols for both campuses.
- We plan to offer the same OVS educational programs and experiences in 2020-21, but with smaller class sizes, daily temperature checks, social distancing and we will be wearing protective face coverings.
- We will offer outdoor education experiences, provide food services and daily bus service, and we will get outside as much as possible (while sanitizing the heck out of everything.)
- We are working on contingencies in the event the health situation worsens. More specific details to come at the end of next week. For now, check out our second [Summer Virtual All School video](#) in which our our Heads of School, Laurie Clark and Craig Floyd, tackle the reopening puzzle - and then cook eggs.



Stay healthy and reach out with questions.

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

SUMMER CAMP

Our kids are having a blast at camp - splashing in the pool, creating artwork, riding horses, playing with friends and more. There's still time to join the fun! We have a few spaces remaining for the last two sessions of camp starting July 13 and July 27. Register at summer.ovs.org.

SUMMER READING

Summer Reading is a great way to keep your mind engaged and explore great literature. Students entering and returning to Ojai Valley School are encouraged - and in some grades required - to read thought-provoking literature and complete assignments over the summer that will stimulate ideas for discussion at the start of the year. Please review the Summer Reading Lists enclosed below. They are also available on the OVS [website resources](#) page:

- [Summer Reading, Lower Campus](#)
- [Summer Reading and Assignments, Upper Campus](#)

