



July 31, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Parents and Guardians,

We want to give you a quick update on our progress. We are five weeks out from the opening of school and continuing to work through the steps needed to open for in-person classes. We will open the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes with in-person instruction as a child care center and we are pursuing a waiver from our public health agency to open at least the elementary division. At the same time, we are enhancing our online learning in anticipation that we must open remotely, at least initially.

At the Lower Campus, staff members have been working on enhanced schedules that include core class instructional time and our full offering of co-curricular classes, including drama, outdoor education, PE, art, Spanish and computers. Our stables on both campuses will open as riding centers to allow for in-person equestrian classes.

At the Upper Campus, academic schedules will remain similar to last year. Fall sports have been delayed, but preparation for competitive team sports, including cross country, soccer, baseball, volleyball and others, will continue. Co-curricular activities, including outdoor education, will be offered and a greater emphasis on diversity and inclusion will be incorporated into the program.

At the same time, we took your feedback from last year to heart. On both campuses this summer we have updated our tools, increased our training and planned an experience that will allow the students increased independence and success at distance learning.

Overall, we know that our ability to resume in-person learning rests on two key factors: reducing the coronavirus infection rate in Ventura County and keeping those numbers low to prevent future closures.

Both of these factors hinge on changes in our routines and habits, and we all need to work together to succeed in this goal. Our Roadmap to Reopening begins with a statement about shared values and responsibility. In a nutshell, it comes down to the idea that for us to ensure everyone's health and safety we must all agree to follow the rules: Wear masks. Wash hands. Limit interactions with people outside your family or cohort group.

It will take all of us working together, supporting each other, and taking the actions necessary to keep ourselves and our whole community safe to reopen and get our students back on

campus to learn together as soon as possible.

We know first hand the challenges of keeping the virus contained. Last week two individuals tested positive for COVID-19 during summer camp, however we can confirm it was not contracted at camp. We made the initial decision to suspend camp activities and today we made the hard, but right, decision to close camp for the final week. Our teachers and campers did an excellent job following rules for health and safety, and the health department confirmed that our protocols greatly reduced the potential for exposure.

Camp taught us three lessons: We must take the virus seriously. We must follow health protocols. We must give children experiences like summer camp. We enjoyed four weeks of seeing campers learn, explore, swim, ride horses, build robots, and play in the outdoors. We believe that schools, like ours, can reopen for in-person instruction in a manner that is safe for staff and students, and we remain committed to that goal.

Warm regards,



Craig Floyd,
Head of School
Upper Campus



Laurie Clark,
Head of School
Lower Campus