



September 11, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

Thank you to all of the Lower Campus families that attended Back To School Night, it was great seeing so many of your faces. I look forward to speaking with you in person. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher if you have questions. Most of the sessions were recorded and we can share those with you.

Waiver update! We have submitted all of the paperwork to the Ventura County Public Health Department in support of our Elementary Waiver request, which this week "advanced" to the state level. We are now awaiting approval. If approved, the waiver will only permit students in grades 1-6 to return to campus. Our 7th and 8th graders, as well as our high school students, will continue with remote learning until Ventura County moves from purple to red in the new state color-coded Tier System. All grades can open for in-person instruction once the county remains in the red tier for 14 days. We will keep you posted.

If the Elementary Waiver is granted...

- We will stagger the different grade level's start date. This will hopefully occur around October 1.
- We will send you detailed information about drop off and pick up. You will have an assigned time and location to drop off/pick up your child. Parents will not be allowed on campus.
- Each child will have to go through a wellness check every morning prior to coming on campus.
- You will be asked to self-quarantine two weeks prior to your child returning to campus. We ask that each family makes good choices, knowing what they do impacts our entire community.
- We will share our safety requirements for students (wear masks, social distancing, staying within their cohorts, etc.). If your child is not used to wearing a mask, I suggest you start practicing at home.
- The academic schedule will be similar to the current schedule, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We may stagger the start and end times for traffic flow, and we will let you know.
- Aftercare will not be provided for students in grades 1-6 until we further evaluate the cohort sizes and staffing needs.
- Teachers will continue to be available for tutoring and office hours until 4 p.m. (this may be in person or virtual).

Please understand, if the waiver is granted your child does not *have* to come on campus; we have cameras in the classroom to accommodate families and provide the same instruction while at home. We will soon send a survey inquiring about your plans to either return to campus or continue with online learning. We are hoping each family can make a decision and stick with it until the end of the semester to assist the teachers with planning.

Thank you for all of the support as we get through the first few weeks of school. We have been overwhelmed and so appreciative of how kind and patient our OVS families have been as we work through the kinks. Thank you OVS!

Kind regards,



Laurie Clark,
Head of School
Lower Campus

Give a Holler for our AP Scholars!

Ojai Valley School produced a record number of AP Scholars last year, with 25 students being recognized by the College Board at the start of this



school year for their excellent performance on those exams. Of the OVS students who earned recognition, three students - current seniors Mark Pindur and Ethan Gao (L17), and OVS graduate and current UCLA freshman Aaron Wolf (L16, U20) - earned the College Board's highest honor for the AP exams, as they were named National AP Scholars.

National AP Scholar recognition is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of the exams throughout their high

school careers. Senior Mark Pindur, who serves as student body president this year, has demonstrated an extensive investment in the Advanced Placement program, having taken AP courses since his sophomore year. "There is a lot of hard work that is put into preparing for those exams," Mark said of his own preparation and that of his fellow students. "It shows how academically motivated and dedicated we are as a community and how we are willing to put in hard work and effort to follow our passions."

[Read more in a story by sophomore Hannah Little \(L19\) on the OVS student journalism website, *On The Hill*.](#)

Lower Campus Virtual All-School

It's our second week and our second Lower Campus [Virtual All School](#)! Mrs. Floyd is the Spud and talks about making connections, even while online. Mr. Mahon has tips about remote learning and Mr. Street teaches us how to sing the OVS song.



Reminder! Materials Pick-Up Day

Today is the day! Lower Campus students will have an opportunity to pick up classroom materials today between 2:30-3:30 p.m. Pick-up will work the same as before:

Grades 1-4: East Entrance

Grades 5-8: West Entrance

If you miss Pick-Up Day, no worries. Contact the Front Office to make arrangements. The next pick up day will be September 25.

Mountainfilm on Tour

The ultimate movie night is coming to your home screen! From September 18-20, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is teaming up with Mountainfilm on Tour and Gojai to bring the original films of the annual festival in Telluride, Colorado to your streaming devices at home.



This annual event is traditionally held at the OVS Lower Campus with live music, food trucks, and families gathered on the big field to watch the screening after sunset. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 event is going virtual. But to make it *feel* like the real deal, OVLC is offering special pre-ordered packages that include dinners by Lorraine Lim Catering and beverages from Topa Topa Brewing Company, available for pickup at the brewery in Ojai. [Pre-order your tickets](#) by September 14 at 5 p.m. for a discounted price! All proceeds will go to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. We look forward to having Mountainfilm back on campus in 2021!



Flu Shots Available

As we prepare to enter the upcoming Influenza Season, our OVS Nurses will be administering the Flu Shot to staff and students on both campuses. If you would like your student to receive the flu shot through the OVS Health Center, please [complete this form](#) by Monday, September 14. Please contact the Health Center if you have any questions or concerns.
