

November 13, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

We want everyone to have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, but we also know the coronavirus is spreading rapidly in many parts of the country, and now locally in Ventura County. In response, Ojai Valley School will be adopting new mandatory testing protocols for all students after the break. Please note the following important changes:

- ALL students will be required to obtain a COVID-19 test and present a negative test result prior to returning to school after Thanksgiving Break. Tests must be obtained no earlier than Saturday, November 28. Please submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test to covidresults@ovs.org.
- In-person classes will be suspended for three days after break and instruction will move online for ALL students on Monday, November 30, Tuesday, December 1, and Wednesday, December 2. This will provide time for families to obtain test results and reduce the potential for virus transmission on campus.
- In-person classes will resume on Thursday, December 3. Students and staff members may return only after submitting evidence of a negative COVID-19 test.

We recommend day students get tested at Sarzotti Park in Ojai between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, November 30. Additional test site information is posted below.

Resident students returning on Sunday, November 29, should be tested before returning to campus and present a negative test result. We will take residents to a test center on Monday, November 30, for a secondary screening. They will complete distance learning from campus until in-person classes resume. Additional information for resident student families will be sent next week. Faculty and staff members will also be tested before classes resume, and routine faculty testing will continue.

We recognize these new protocols may be inconvenient for some families. But these are truly unprecedented times and we believe the need to protect our community from a potential virus outbreak, one that could jeopardize our ability to remain open for in-person classes, far outweighs the temporary inconvenience of moving to distance learning. We have worked hard to build an environment that can be open safely, and we have much to protect.

Thank you for your continued support, and contact us with any questions or concerns at cfloyd@ovs.org and lclark@ovs.org.

Sincerely,



Lower Campus All-School

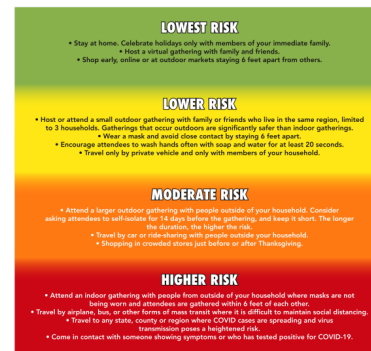
This week, we honor our veterans with a special [Virtual All School Assembly](#) from the Lower Campus that celebrates the history of Veterans Day and introduces some of the men and women in our OVS community, including parents, alumni and staff members, who have served in the United States Armed Forces. In the words of Head of School Laurie Clark: "It is a special day we should always honor.



Thanksgiving and COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests the best way to avoid getting the virus during the upcoming holidays is to stay at home. The agency suggests [low-risk holiday plans](#), such as hosting a small outdoor dinner with family or friends who live in the same area. We have created a helpful guide with risk factors to consider, as well as distance learning schedules. [Free COVID-19 testing](#) is available at the Ventura County Fairgrounds and other sites, including Sarzotti Park in Ojai from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, November 16
Monday, November 30
Monday, December 7
Monday, December 14
Monday, December 21
Monday, December 28



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California Department of Public Health, Ventura County Public Health

PLEASE SEE REVERSE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 TESTING REQUIREMENTS AND TESTING LOCATIONS

Middle School Presents Suspenseful Drama Online

Our Middle School production of "Line Busy," will air on Friday at 6:30 p.m. This drama, based on the Barbara Stanwyck movie, "Sorry, Wrong Number," features many of our talented 8th graders. This is a PG production, not the usual OVS song-and-dance show! Please be advised it is based on a film noir and although there is no graphic action, bad deeds are implied. [See the trailer](#) and watch the [performance on our OVS Vimeo page](#) on Friday evening!



Outdoor Education Weekend Adventures!

What does socially distanced outdoor fun look like? It starts in the surf and ends on the crag! Last weekend, Outdoor Education Coordinator Zach Byars and Math Teacher Soren Stewart took eight students surfing at 5:30 a.m., then headed to the local mountains with six students for a rock climbing excursion. Two students, junior Alex Manning and senior Andrew Thacher (L17), pulled double duty on both trips by surfing in the morning and climbing in the afternoon.

"Alex and his brother, Ben, are really talented climbers," Mr. Byars said. "Hiking down in the setting sun put an exclamation point on an action-packed adventure day. The climbing location overlooks the Ojai Valley and was a first for most of these boys."

Later today, Byars will lead a trip themed "Women in the Water" as nine freshman girls showcase their water skills and learn some new ones on SUPs, kayaks, surf and boogie boards while watching the setting sun at Solimar Beach.



Surf at 5:30 a.m. in Ventura.



Afternoon climb on the crag.



Good day. Down at 5:30 p.m.

Turkey Trot Planned for Lower Campus

This year's annual Turkey Trot fundraiser for Lower Campus Student Council will take place in PE classes between November 16-20 and will follow all social distancing guidelines. Funds will support Student Council, Help of Ojai, the Humane Society and other organizations and projects throughout the year. Thank you in advance! [Support the Turkey Trot!](#)



Ojai Valley School

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