



# Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Lane,  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
Tel: 714 847-2551  
Fax: 714 847-1430  
Web: [www.ovsd.org](http://www.ovsd.org)

Superintendent  
Carol Hansen, Ed. D.

Board Of Trustees  
Patricia Singer, President  
Jack C. Souders, Vice President  
Gina Clayton-Tarvin, Clerk  
John Briscoe, Member  
Norm Westwell, Member

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March 5, 2021

Dear OVSD Parents,

We are very proud of the innovation and resourcefulness our entire OVSD team has demonstrated under the challenging circumstances of the last year. Our focus has always been and will continue to be on what is best for students.

### **Increasing time in school for students**

For those of you that chose the in-person model this year, we know what an important role being in school plays in your child's educational achievement, health, and wellbeing, and **we are working on ways to bring elementary students back to school five days a week as early as April**. The California Department of Public Health recently issued new school guidelines, including social distance requirements in the classroom that have been reduced from a minimum of six feet to four feet. In order to bring our students back in the classroom five days a week, we will :

- Work collaboratively with our employee associations
- Reconfigure classroom layouts to accommodate more students permitted with the four feet social distancing requirement
- Hire additional staff and reconfigure classes in some instances
- Reassess safety protocols to keep classrooms safe while allowing more students

It is likely that we will implement bringing elementary students back five days a week in phases, with a few grades at a time. **Our Board of Trustees will be discussing the in-person elementary instructional model at the next OVSD Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 9th, at 6 PM.** All of these changes will take some time and as more details are finalized with our employee associations, we will inform our families. Middle School presents more challenges in working with class size, master schedule, and teacher credentials. However, we are looking at ways to improve the existing Hybrid schedule.

### **What will school look like next year?**

Many of you are asking what school will look like in the fall. We fully intend to open schools and classrooms five days a week in the 2021-22 school year. We are also committed to providing parents a choice, and plan to offer both a 5-day, in-person option as well as our Virtual Academy.

### **COVID-19 rates declining and vaccines available for educators**

The COVID-19 case rates are steadily declining in Orange County and the number of cases on the OVSD Dashboard has dropped significantly. In addition, on March 1, all school employees became eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. Please keep in mind that vaccines are still in limited supply, and it is expected to take some time to vaccinate the 150,000 school employees in Orange County. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the strong commitment being made at the state and county levels to get school employees vaccinated.

We continue to strive to keep students and staff safe, while addressing our students' academic, social, and emotional needs. As always, we appreciate your patience, partnership, and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Hansen, Superintendent  
Patricia Singer, President, Board of Trustees