

August 26 update:

Dear Overlake Community,

Today, with all faculty and staff back to school for a week of pre-service days, mentoring, and professional development, officially marked the end of summer and the start of the school year. This start was unlike any we have ever had, where all of the meetings were virtual and instead of walking from building to building on campus, we moved from Teams meeting to Teams meeting.

Although this first pre-service day was far different, what felt so similar was how quickly faculty and staff reconnected with each other, how rich and collaborative the discussions were about teaching and learning, and how excited people are to welcome students back to school on August 31.

As many of you know, when the school year ended in June, faculty pivoted their collective attention to August and the start of our next school year. They set about participating in a robust summer professional development experience, led by our incredible Teaching and Learning Team. Faculty were provided support and direction throughout the summer on preparing for some type of online instruction, which included a rework on Canvas pages, redesigning lessons, honing technology skills, and participating in workshops with outside teaching organizations such as Global Online Academy. Additionally, faculty worked with colleagues both within and across departments collaborating on new skills and techniques for a different type of instruction. Their dedication, relentless devotion, and tireless work throughout this summer have prepared us well for the start of the school year and the challenges we will face this year.

All of this work was informed by what we learned last spring as well as the feedback you provided. In talking with faculty and seeing the work completed, I have no doubt that the successes we had last spring will be built upon so this year classes will be all the more interactive, engaging, and informative. Our collective goal is to provide students with an Overlake education that we have all come to expect and appreciate.

Finally, I have frequently heard from families asking what they can do to support the school. My answer has and continues to be – stay involved with the school, come to virtual class meetings, engage with other families, volunteer, give back, stay connected to your child's experiences. At some point we will be on the other side of this pandemic and if we have not tended to our community, we will have much less to come back to. As I have mentioned before – communities are places where people thrive, let's all give our collective efforts to keeping Overlake thriving.

As we have in the past, we will host a Town Hall on Friday at 6:00pm, look forward to connecting with you then. Here's the link to the meeting: <http://bit.ly/TownHall-Aug28th>

The first day of school for our students will quickly be upon us. Please enjoy these last days of summer with your family, and know that we can't wait to welcome them to class on Monday and to connect with you all again soon.

Thank you for your current and future support and trust of Overlake. We are all Owls together!

Warmly,  
Matt

