

Dear Overlake Community,

As we approach the final seven weeks of what has been a challenging year, I want to thank you for your flexibility, your help, and your continued support of Overlake. I am sure that when we look back at this time, we will remember what was hard, but I hope that we can also reflect on what we learned from each other and what we are capable of doing together. Personally, I have relied on the strength of this community these many months.

As many of you know, our faculty and staff have returned fully to campus and with this change we have seen an increase in the number of students who have returned as well. Our classrooms, walkways, and fields resemble more of what Overlake looked like 14 months ago, and for that I am thankful.

In planning for the remaining weeks, we have several important events to plan which are important to highlight and I want to update you all on reopening of campus.

First, to our upcoming events. As you can imagine we are working to plan several important events for the fantastic Class of 2021! No graduating class in Overlake's history has had to endure the many months away from campus and numerous missed opportunities. We are, however, planning events this coming week for the class as we send them off to Senior Projects. We are also working on plans for Prom, Senior Brunch, and of course graduation, all important milestones for the Class of 2021. This work wouldn't be possible without a dedicated group of parent volunteers who are helping us think through these important events.

We are also planning our traditional eighth-grade promotion and although it will look different than in the past, we will create an opportunity to fully celebrate these wonderful students before they head into high school.

As to reopening campus, our plans are to open campus to four days a week, with full-day, non-cohort learning for all grades (5-11) beginning on May 10. This means from Monday – Thursday all students can be on campus with Friday remaining a virtual day for all students. We would continue this schedule for the remainder of the school year.

The change is based on our ability to successfully manage students on campus these last few weeks, the mental health benefits we are seeing for our students on campus, the changes in the [CDC](#) guidelines for schools around social distancing, and the encouragement from seeing many schools in the area move to a more regular student schedule. Even with this change we will continue to offer online instruction for all students, as we have since the start of the year.

Finally, what will be critical as we make this transition is that families continue to support each other and the school. Students need to have proper masking in place, families need to complete the Magnus App before arriving on campus, and our weekly advisory COVID testing protocols need family support for those students on campus.

I invite you to bring any questions you have for our last Community Town Hall of the school year, scheduled for May 12 at 6:00 pm. Here is the Teams link to join: <http://bit.ly/TownHall-May12th>.

Once again, thank you to each of you for all you have done as we have navigated so many trying times together. I am humbled to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Warmly,  
Matt