

Dear Overlake Community,

This week I received an email from a former Overlaker who wanted to check in and make sure that the community was staying strong and that his former teachers were okay. In these challenging times, I know many of us are staying connected with family and checking in on friends. I am sure we have also reconnected with important people and organizations which are important to us, much like this alum did with me. I believe doing so gives us comfort in these unprecedented times.

During Monday's Town Hall meeting, I was joined by Upper School Head Gerald Buhaly and college counselors Kate Asgari and Tanya Cummings. We had a robust discussion regarding the school's move to credit/no credit for fourth quarter. About 160 community members joined this virtual meeting which included parents and guardians as well as faculty and staff. I enjoyed the thoughtful questions that came up as it is clear to me how much our community cares about the overall well-being of our students in this trying time. Making this decision was not an easy one for the school but we believe it will allow our students the best chance to learn and master essential skills during this time.

Next Monday, I'll be joined by Teaching and Learning Director, Nidhi McVicar, as we discuss the new normal for Overlake. (Join the Virtual Town Hall [here](#).) We'll share new developments with our distance learning program, talk about what we have learned and are learning, and take questions you may have. We hope to see you there.

And just like we are adjusting *Overlake Online* amidst the pandemic, we are adjusting all that we do at Overlake. We are still operating as a school, just virtually! Faculty and staff meetings, student check-ins, parent/guardian grade-level coffees and gatherings, happy hours for faculty and staff, board committee meetings are all continuing - even Senior Projects are happening online.

While this is not the way we imagined we would be doing school, we have adapted and remained flexible in these last several weeks. We miss you, we care about you, and we look forward to the time when we will be back on campus together.

Thank you for partnering alongside us in these trying times. We are certainly "owl" in this together.

Be well,
Matt