

Dear Overlake Community,

The campus once again begins to show signs of life as our fifth graders who chose to return for in-person learning are on campus for week two with our *Overlake Combined* hybrid schedule. We are also preparing to welcome our sixth graders at the end of this week as they begin to transition to campus. Friday also saw the return of some members of the class of 2021 for a retreat. Seeing our oldest Owls on campus was an emotional moment for several of us, as students reconnected with each other and found joy in group projects.

As I mentioned in our Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Town Hall, [recorded here](#), our Health & Safety team, along with faculty, staff, and administration have been working on plans to return the remaining grades to campus. As has been the case for Overlake since the start of the pandemic, decisions on when to return to campus have all been made with careful measured planning that allows us to understand challenges and address them before increasing the number of students or faculty on campus. Having a phased approach also allows our faculty time to prepare for a new type of instruction.

Below you will find the plan for our students return to campus. As you review, please know that these plans are subject to change based on factors such as infection rates and possible state mandates. It is also important to underscore that decisions on whether to return to campus is a decision that each family and faculty member decides. To this point, I believe it is critical that we as a community remain focused with trust and respect for each other as we navigate these challenging times with our families. Doing so will mean that when we can finally return fully, we will have a community that is connected and supportive of one another.

So, beginning the week we return from Mid-Winter break, we will see our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades for a full day of *Overlake Combined* hybrid instruction, with everyone online on Friday, Feb 26.

The following week, from March 1-4, we will have 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades and ADD 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, with everyone online on Friday, March 5.

The week of March 8-11, the above grades all return, and we ADD 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, with Friday, March 12 everyone learning online.

The week of March 15 all Middle School grades and all Upper School grades return as we ADD 11<sup>th</sup> grade, with a teacher work day on Friday, March 19. Students will not have school on Friday. This week and the following week will have every grade invited to campus and take us into Upper School Project Week on March 29.

Keep in mind that each week the Green Cohort of each grade invited to campus will come on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the Gold Cohort on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with everyone learning from home on Fridays.

Our plans are to continue this way after Spring Break, reopening the week of April 12 with all grades returning to campus in their color cohorts, pending any major changes in the virus' transmission rates.

Please join us for a Town Hall, Thursday Feb 11 <http://bit.ly/Townhall-Feb11-2021> where we can go over in detail the plan above and answer any questions you may have.

Until then, please take care of yourselves and one another and thank you for being an Owl with all of us during these challenging times.

Warmly,

Matt