

Dear Overlake Community,

I hope this message finds you all enjoying your first few days of summer vacation with a much-needed break from the pace of the regular school year, even though these last 12 weeks have been anything but regular.

I did want to update you on where we are in our planning for the 2020-21 school year. As you may have heard in the news yesterday, the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) released a [guide on reopening schools](#) in the fall. This office oversees the work of all K-12 public schools in Washington and although Overlake is an independent school and part of the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS), the OSPI information provides good direction in planning for next year.

You'll find in this guide that many of the recommendations are aligned with what we have been planning. To summarize parts of the guide, schools should plan to start the year with face-to-face instruction, albeit in a manner consistent with social distancing guidelines, mask wearing and limiting guests on campus. This is hopeful news as we prepare to start our school year on August 31. The guide provides flexibility for schools based on their location, which is tied to Governor Inslee's [Safe Start Phases](#). If we are in Phase 3 of the governor's plan, we would have students rotating between campus and home for their instruction.

Of course, no one knows for sure where we will be with COVID-19 by the end of August. We must continue to practice patience and flexibility while planning for all our various teaching scenarios - Overlake OnCampus, Overlake Combined, Overlake Online. The six teams of people tasked with continuing this work: health & safety, daily life at school, teaching & learning, maintaining facilities, DEI, and community continue to meet throughout the summer. We are making progress with our plans as we navigate and pivot during this pandemic.

The collective flexibility and commitment of our faculty, staff, and families over the final 12 weeks of the year give me confidence that we can bring this same attitude to the 2020-21 school year.

Until then, stay safe and Go Owls!

Matt