

Dear Overlake Community,

As we head into the final two weeks of school, I did want to update you on work we are doing in preparation for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Before focusing on this, I want to recognize once again our amazing class of 2020, who have had to persevere through a senior spring unlike any Overlake has ever seen. And although we have had to reimagine so many important school celebrations for them, they will as a class be remembered so fondly for years to come. I also want to thank all of our faculty, staff, students, and families for working through the many challenges presented this spring while supporting each other and the school. I could not be prouder to be an Owl right now!

In working on plans for next year, it has proved helpful to learn what other schools around the world are doing as they reopen now. Many of the challenges we will face in August are ones that schools in Germany, Denmark, France, and China are currently navigating. When reading about these schools several common themes emerge which are the need for everyone in the community to embrace a level of flexibility, the recognition that schools will operate differently in order to address the pandemic, and that transparency and strong communication are essential tools for the community.

Below is an overview of these three scenarios we are currently working on. What will remain the central focus for us in all of our planning is to ensure the health and wellness of all members of the Overlake community. Additionally, we have synced our scenarios with the phased plan provide by Governor Inslee. Doing so will ensure we are aligned with key information provided by our public health officials at the state and local level.

As you look through the scenarios below you will see that there is still much work to be done before we reopen in August. This is work that will continue through the summer months with professional development days allocated to our faculty and work by several teams we have formed to focus on opening school. We will also be communicating with you throughout the summer to keep you informed about the plans particularly when information from the state is available.

This week we are running another survey and we will also run another at the end of the school year. This information we gather will help us as we plan this summer. Please take a few moments to complete this survey now; thank you in advance for your feedback.

While I know we all wish for a return to “normal life” as quickly as possible, and I am confident that day will eventually arrive, I know this coming school year will still be filled with incredible learning for our students, thoughtful and purposeful instruction, and a variety of community building opportunities to bring us together, whether we are together in person, on campus, or connecting virtually.

Tomorrow, I will review the various scenarios and provide additional details at a 6:30 pm PFSA meeting [<https://bit.ly/PFSAEvent>] and at a Town Hall [<https://bit.ly/3brT0May26>] on Tuesday at 11:30 am.

Have a terrific, long weekend. Monday is Memorial Day. Enjoy this time with family and friends. Thank you again for being an Owl with us.

Be well,
Matt

Overlake Online

If at the end of August, if we are still in **Phase 1** of the governor's plan, we would continue with ***Overlake Online***. We have learned a great deal since we have become an online school and would use what we have learned to enhance the online experience for students and our community. If we were still in Phase 1 then all activities on campus would be cancelled, until we received clearance from the state.

Overlake Combined

A more likely situation by the start of the school year is that we will be in **Phase 2 or 3** of the governor's plan. In such a case we would offer a hybrid model of school called ***Overlake Combined***. We would limit the number of students on campus in order to meet social distancing requirements with approximately 50% of the Overlake student body here on any given day. When a student is not scheduled to be on campus the student would engage in real-time online learning. After-school activities on campus would be reduced, however we would still try and maintain an athletics and arts calendar, albeit in creative ways, and allowing for live streaming of events.

Overlake OnCampus

Finally, if we are in **Phase 4** of the governor's plan, school will feel similar to what August 2019 felt like. ***Overlake OnCampus*** would have all students on campus, after-school activities, and faculty and staff working with students. What will feel different is limiting large gatherings, additional campus cleaning, temperature checks, careful monitoring of student and employee health, and limits on visitors to campus, including those from other schools.