

Dear Overlake Community,

Welcome to May. This time of the year is usually one filled with special events and culminating activities. We are working to celebrate whenever possible virtually and from a distance, but clearly it is not the same. I am sure that you feel similar that we hope next year at this time we will be back to celebrating our students and their milestones in person and on campus as we have done for our 53 years.

As we enter May, we do want to turn our collective attention to what next year could hold for Overlake. Since none of us have certainty over what the virus and its impact will be in the fall, these plans are very fluid. Thus, it will be critical for us to be flexible and recognize that what we had planned to do may well need to be changed or adjusted based on new information. We will certainly keep you apprised as we know more.

In preparation for next year, the school has started to develop several possible scenarios of what reopening might look like. From the information provided by Governor Inslee, it is not unreasonable to assume that we will be back on campus for the start of school on August 31st. Depending on additional direction we receive, school on campus could very well look different, from staggered weekly and daily schedules, changes in classroom layouts, limiting large gatherings, and controlling the number of meetings and events on campus. As we continue planning for next year, members of the administrative team, faculty, staff, board members, and parents will help us navigate this work. Our goal with this planning is to share information about what the various plans are, how they will unfold, and what a student's experience will be. Please know we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the education all our students receive will continue to be engaging and inspiring, whether we are in the classroom or online.

As we can imagine, next year will feel different, and how we start the school year may not be the same way as how we finish the year. The other critical piece to remember is that although we have learned a great deal these last eight weeks and will learn even more next year, our destiny is not to become an online school. Once a vaccine is readily available, I know we will look much more like the school we were back in January, with the community fully connected to one another.

I will continue to communicate ideas and potential plans as we go through the spring and into summer. Feel free to reach out to me at any time or join our Monday morning Town Halls at 11:30.

Next week Nidhi McVicar and Jay Heath will join me to talk about the intersection of technology and teaching and learning in this now online experience. Here's the link to join the meeting. (<https://bit.ly/3aget30May11>)

Also, a friendly reminder that this Friday is a Professional Development Day. Faculty will continue to work on their curriculum together and collaborate to plan for the remainder of the term with Overlake Online. I continue to be inspired and humbled by their dedication and commitment to all their students, and their tireless optimism as they navigate these uncharted waters. I am blessed to have them as my colleagues.

I wish you all the best, and hope that you can enjoy this precious time with your families. Please take care and thank you again for being a part of our Owl community.

Be well,

Matt