



Greetings,

The unexpected early Spring Break ends on Sunday, but sadly, we will not be able to welcome our students back into our school on Monday morning.

By order of the Governor and the Department of Education, we will be moving to a virtual school/distance learning model for the immediate future. We do not know how long this situation will last, but two weeks is the absolute minimum.

We recognize the many challenges this creates for our students and families. The school's staff is feeling the anxiety too, but the Ocean State Academy team sincerely wishes to remain as "open" to our students and families as we are able to be.

Here are some of the current updates:

- Starting Monday, and until further notice, the school will be staffed during scheduled school hours. This will be a small, rotating staff to ensure we are operating in the safest, most socially responsible way possible. While we encourage phone calls and emails, we are asking **all visitors** to schedule their visits for now.
- OSA will be providing food and other relief supplies to our students and families. You can call the school to schedule a pickup of supplies.
- OSA will be working closely with local governments to establish scheduled times for students to come in and work safely with trusted staff one-on-one if the closure persists.
- We will be issuing all students new, official OSA email accounts.
- We have established an interactive Google Classroom Environment for students to work with teachers and with each other.
- We will be providing computers and other devices to students who require them to access offered instruction.
- We will be expanding the use of systems and programs your child is already familiar with from the classroom, such as Edgenuity, Pathblazer, and IXL.
- OSA teachers will also be providing you with customized print materials for your child to supplement the work they will be engaging in online.
- Social workers will be reaching out to schedule times for videoconferencing or phone sessions. They will also be available to help you connect with community resources during this time of so much disruption.

We know these are confusing, frustrating, and anxious times. We truly are all in this together and need to be there for each other as much as possible. We will be here to answer your questions and to support you in any way we can.

Here are some of the things we could use from you:

- Please send a quick email to [CMontilla@oceanstateacademy.com](mailto:CMontilla@oceanstateacademy.com) from your preferred email account. Include your name and your child's first name and last initial. Email is going to be a critical part of ensuring ongoing communication during this situation.
- If you have **NOT** been receiving our text-blasts of information, please call the school at 401-423-4234 to ensure we have the best mobile number for you.
- Encourage your child to keep a schedule, to engage in scheduled lessons and to keep up with their assignments.
- Some people find that getting dressed in their normal work or school clothes makes them more productive when working from home. If your child is having a hard time getting motivated and engaged in learning at home, encourage them to put on their "school clothes"!
- Encourage your students to ask for help using the new online tools for communication or by just picking up the phone and calling.
- Be proactive in letting us know how we can help. We can't do everything, but we can help with none of the problems we don't know about!

There is no reason to panic and every reason to work hard together. Getting through this will not be easy and will require sacrifices, but **we will** get through it and our communities will be stronger and healthier for it!

Sincerely,

The Ocean State Academy Team