

April 2, 2020



Dear OSA Families,

As we complete our second week of distance learning, we very much appreciate all you've done to support our students this past week. We've been gratified by the number of positive messages that were sent by email and through social media. Your child's school staff has worked very hard in a short period of time to make our distance learning plan a reality that's both meaningful and manageable. We are all in this together.

We also want you to know that the OSA team has been listening and responding to feedback we've receiving by incorporating recommendations to improve the distance learning experience for our students. One such suggestion is to establish some best practices for participating in online learning communities, particularly on conference calls that include webcam access. We ask for your support in upholding these best practices by reminding your child of this important information about "online etiquette" so that we can continue to nurture a positive climate for teaching and learning in a virtual environment:

- Make sure your student's virtual classroom setup supports student learning. Sounds and images in your home can be picked up by the webcam and microphone, so please be thoughtful about the space in which your child is working. Students also have the option to "mute" their mics and to use a picture of themselves added to their profile instead of a live-camera view.
- Students are most engaged when they're able to sit up straight, with good posture, when they can comfortably access their materials, and when they have limited distractions. Making little adjustments to their learning environment to meet these goals can go a long way toward more effective learning. Also, students should dress with the expectation that others can see them and what they're wearing.
- Using the microphone is akin to being called on in class. So students should keep their mics on mute unless they are speaking. Parents/guardians and other family members should refrain from interrupting teachers or speaking directly to teachers during instruction. We are happy to have your suggestions—just please email them directly to teachers after class is over.

Thank you for working together to ensure that all OSA students continue to receive the best education possible during the COVID-19 crisis.

Sincerely,
The Ocean State Academy Team