

The Wave

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
SEPTEMBER 2021



Ocean State Academy's administration team would like to welcome all our teachers, staff, students, and collaborating districts back for the 2021–2022 school year. In addition to me, our team—led by our Executive Director, Anthony Clancy, M.Ed.—consists of our Dean of Students, Academic Coordinator, IEP Coordinator, Clinical Director, Academic Interventionist, Alternative Learning Program Coordinator, and Transition Coordinator, all of whom you'll be introduced to in this inaugural edition of "The Wave," created especially and exclusively for our district partners.

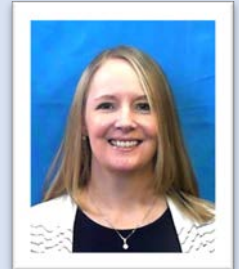
We're extremely excited to now include this newsletter in our communications with you so we can keep you informed of all OSA happenings and showcase all of the amazing opportunities we offer our students. For example, brand-new developments for this school year include carpentry training (in our on-campus woodshop!) and cosmetology training through our Transition Program. Our career-readiness curriculum, which includes our long-standing culinary classes, equips students with vocational education and skill sets invaluable to building positive relationships, both in school and in the community, and to laying the groundwork for productive future paths. At OSA, our foundational goal is to empower our students with a "growth mindset"—a way of thinking and an approach to living that encourages them to take advantage of opportunities and make the most of the present moment. We invite you to catch "The Wave" with us each and every month, so you can share in the wonderful advancements our students are making here every day. I wish you all a fantastic and safe school year.

Sincerely,

Rob Picard
School Principal



It is with great pleasure that I'd like to share with our esteemed district leaders the academic highlights of the start of the 2021–2022 school year. Teachers are working diligently to implement our data-driven, personalized, blended learning curriculum. They're busy assessing each student to strategically plan their instruction in order to meet their personalized learning goals and address any gaps that may be holding them back. Struggling students are also supported by our intervention team, through which they can receive additional guided practice or research-based remediated lessons to address any learning gaps. Learners working above grade level are challenged with programs like Edgenuity and Reading Plus. Students are acclimating well to our growth mindset community and are actively engaging in building their academic and social-emotional skills.



Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have for students from your district. It is truly a privilege and a pleasure to work with you on supporting each student in achieving their goals.

With gratitude for all you do to support our students,

Shannon Schabek
Academic Coordinator

Hello! As the Dean of Students at Ocean State Academy, I work with our school's principal to carry out OSA's state-of-the-art, effective academic and behavior programs to the highest level possible. As a professional educator, I understand and respond to the challenges presented by our diverse student population. I provide proactive leadership to engage all stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to support our students' academic achievement, personal growth, and social development. I work cooperatively with the principal, counselors, health coordinator, staff, students, and parents toward a positive school climate.



Jason DeLawrence, Dean of Students





Happy start of the school year, everyone!

As the new IEP Coordinator for Ocean State Academy, I did my best to reach out and introduce myself to all of our district partners at the start of September, but if I missed anyone, please accept my sincerest apologies. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with all of you as we help our students navigate a successful and fulfilling school year ahead. Ocean State Academy has been truly blessed with an incredible group of students. It is my honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to advocate for their academic success and emotional well-being. As we embark on this school year together, please know you can always reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have regarding our students—your input will always be valued and appreciated. In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Here's to an exceptional 2021–2022 school year!

Karen Hitte
IEP Coordinator

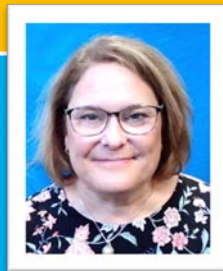
Hello. I have been a part of the OSA community for the past four years and am very eager to get back to in-person learning! Currently, I proudly serve as the Coordinator of Alternative Learning, a targeted program that creates safe, therapeutic spaces in which our students execute their academic goals in a variety of ways. Each student has a plan tailored to their individual needs and academic goals. This approach not only truly individualizes the learning experience, but also increases each student's chances of success. To provide age-appropriate and grade-level-based support and instruction, our middle and high school students attend what we call "alternative learning classrooms," focused on strategies to facilitate the development of educational milestones not yet achieved, whereas our "Dragon School" serves our elementary-aged population, focusing on cultivating social-emotional skill areas in which our students may be lagging.



Robert Gamble
Alternative Learning
Program Coordinator

At OSA, we are on a mission to help struggling readers build and improve fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. We plan individualized instruction for students identified as needing extra reading support. Through a consistent, systematic process, we teach students to become independent readers. We set high expectations for students and believe that by sharpening reading skills, students will become motivated and self-confident members of their community.

Jann Rochefort, Academic Interventionist



I'm very excited to announce that my department is planning its very first Ocean State Academy Career Fair in October! We will be offering our students a multitude of opportunities to choose from that will enhance their creativity, social skills, and employment readiness. We will of course still be offering our culinary curriculum this year, but in addition, we're having a cosmetician come in to teach students self-care by such means as proper hair and nail maintenance. We're about to debut our on-campus woodshop, and we've also created a community partnership with retailer Price Rite to expand the opportunities available to our students. We're setting our sights on continuing to enlarge the Transition Program semester after semester to expose our students to as many career options as possible.



Nora Hixon, Transition Coordinator & Culinary Supervisor

The talented social work team that I lead at Ocean State Academy is comprised of six members: Ms. Ahlquist, Ms. Antonia, Ms. Ferreira, Ms. Miranda, and me, Ms. Fontaine. Each of these clinical team members carry their own caseload of K–12 students in our school. Our invaluable sixth member, Ms. Torres is the social work team's administrative assistant and point of contact for districts. Nevertheless, please know that you can also contact me directly regarding either general or specific Social Work Department questions or topics.

We are excited to pilot some new initiatives this school year and to work with local programs to support the Ocean State Academy community. So stay tuned for updates throughout 2021–2022!

Brianna Fontaine, LICSW
Clinical Director

