



March 23, 2020

Dear Odyssey Charter Schools Community Members:

During the State's "Stay Home" and Los Angeles County "Safer at Home" public health orders, we want to assure our community that we are working hard to continue to provide essential services, such as student meals and technology support to families. Our teachers continue to contact families to provide social-emotional support for students, and all of our staff have been using this critical two-week period since our March 16th, 2020 dismissal of school to plan a thoughtful and engaging distance learning plan that meets the needs of all learners.

Additionally, we anticipate the approval of a federal waiver cancelling the required assessments for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year such as the CAASPP for our 3rd-8th grade students and the science test (CAST) for our 5th and 8th grade students. Our distance learning plan will be a continuum of providing students with high quality education during the period school campus remains physically closed.

Last Week

While we awaited further information and details from the Governor and Department of Education for guidance on the implementation of his Executive Order and its implications, we quickly responded to our community by identifying technology needs for families, passed out optional independent practice packets, and ensured our families received meals.

We also acted as quickly as possible to identify the requirements for our distance learning plans that maintain equity, access, and compliance with charter education law for all learners including our general education students, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners. Distance learning will launch on **April 6th, 2020**.

This Week in Action

On Friday afternoon, Superintendent Duardo announced her recommendation to extend closure of all public schools until Tuesday, May 5, 2020 to help contain the spread of COVID-19. With the recommendation of Superintendent Duardo, our Governing Board will hold a special board meeting to review and approve our campus closure until **Tuesday, May 5th, 2020**.

Our Principals, Teachers, Inclusion Specialists, Teacher Assistants, and Enrichment staff, are virtually collaborating to develop thoughtful, consistent and cohesive distance learning plans for our TK-8th grade students aligned with our vision and mission.

We ask for everyone's continued patience and understanding, as this is new territory for all of us. We cannot replace the amazing, in-person daily instruction that our teachers offer in their classrooms, but are working diligently on a viable virtual experience. This week allows our faculty time to research, identify, and purchase

necessary resources, create thoughtful schedules, and learn the new technology skills necessary to implement distance learning that is appropriate for all grades.

We anticipate sharing our plan at the end of this week so families are prepared when we launch distance learning on April 6th. Updates will be sent to you via email, phone and/or text and will be posted on our website, and instagram. Teachers will continue to reach out via email and/or video this week.

Meals

On March 16th, 2020, the first day of the COVID-19 school closure, we began serving free and reduced-price meals to students who qualify under the National School Lunch Program. We are pleased to join public schools across the country that ensure that these essential services continue during the “Stay at Home” period. If you already qualify, breakfast and lunch can be picked up between 7:30am and 11:30 a.m. on the Aveson School of Leaders campus, 1919 E. Pinecrest Drive, Altadena, 91001.

If your family's circumstances have changed and you are likely to now qualify for the free or reduced lunch program, visit our [Lunch Program site](#) to complete an application. You may email your application and any questions you have to Melissa Herrera melissah@ocsmail.org.

Technology Updates

Our administrative team will continue to follow up with families that still require technology support prior to launching our distance learning plan.

The Weeks Ahead

Families will continue to receive communications directly from our Executive Director Lauren O’Neill, on Wednesdays and Fridays of each week through email, website, and our [Instagram account @odysseycharterschools](#). Parent Facebook pages: Odyssey "[OCS Parents \(Altadena\)](#) and [OCS- South Facebook](#) page if you would like to join these groups.

Please know that our staff and I miss you all and it's going to be a difficult 6 weeks without the normal school day activities, after school events, and interactions with families. Your continued support and kind words give us the assurance of knowing we will power through and come back stronger, together as a community.

We continue to ask for your grace, compassion, kindness, patience, and understanding for all our staff that are working around the clock during these challenging times to deliver a quality educational experience for all of our learners.

In gratitude of your support,

Lauren O’Neill, Executive Director
Odyssey Charter Schools