



OCV Elementary School

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InnoVative • CreatiVe • Virtual

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Newsletter #1 – September, 2022

Welcome to OCV Elementary School!

Welcome to OCV Elementary School, OCDSB's online school for Kindergarten to Grade 6! We are excited to begin an amazing school year with our 620 students and their families as well as our 50 staff members. Today, we welcome new and returning OCV students and families. We look forward to getting to know your children better and providing an engaging learning experience this year. Thank you to all of our Teachers, Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants, Library Technician, Office Staff and Vice Principals for all their hard work in preparing for a wonderful start to the year. Over the coming weeks, we will be reviewing routines and expectations in classes in order for students to adjust to a new school year.



OCV Elementary aims to develop a modern learning experience, incorporating research-based educational practices that foster future-ready skills such as critical thinking, authentic problem solving, communication and collaboration. Students are given agency through meaningful learning tasks that leverage technology and that are driven by their needs, interests and the big ideas of the curriculum. Through varied experiences, we create dynamic learning spaces, enabling students to learn in different ways, at different times. The work we do at OCV is about engaging students, knowing their interests and creating opportunities to develop each students' skills and abilities through relevant, real-world learning experiences.

Again this year, students will have a full 300 mins/day of teacher facilitated instructional time. Although there are no defined "asynchronous" hours in the day, teachers will be employing a variety of instructional strategies throughout the week to vary the learning. At times, students may have independent work time, group work/projects, 1:1 conferencing with the teacher, social time with peers, quiet reading, small group instruction or whole class instruction. There will always be a teacher online in their Google Meet to guide and support them.

Schedule and [Calendar](#)

School Hours: 9:00 to 3:30

Instructional Block	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Nutrition Block/Recess	11:00 AM - 11:45 AM
Instructional Block	11:45 AM - 1:45 PM
Nutrition Block/Recess	1:45 PM - 2:30 PM
Instructional Block	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Our school day is 9:00-3:30 with two breaks, 11:00-11:45 am and 1:45-2:30 pm. Teachers will be sharing their class schedule with specific details. We will once again be providing two five minutes break times during the first and second learning blocks for students to look away from the screen, get a breath of fresh air or get a quick drink/snack. Teachers will also be providing 20 minutes of Daily Physical Activity – please ensure your child(ren) has/have appropriate footwear and are wearing comfortable clothes.

OCV Recess

We want to ensure students have time to socialize virtually. Therefore, we will once again be having recess times for students to connect. There will be two educators supervising three to four same grade classes during the second Nutrition Break from 2:05 pm to 2:30 pm. Teachers will be sharing the Google Meet Codes for your child(ren)'s classes. We look forward to Kindergarten to Grade 6 students having fun with their friends!



Use of Webcam, Audio, and Chat Features in OCV Virtual Classes

Full and active participation in the synchronous class meetings is essential for students engaged in Virtual Learning. While not mandatory at all times, as much as possible and whenever appropriate, we encourage students to have webcams on and to use microphones to interact verbally. We know from our experience with virtual learning that active participation relates directly to increased sense of connectedness and ability to demonstrate learning. Active participation is required via text/chat, audio (microphone), and, when appropriate, video/webcam, and is a key component to finding success in staying engaged during virtual learning.

When Video/Webcams are essential for learning:

- Demonstrations of skill (e.g. physical education/daily physical activity)
- Demonstration of techniques (e.g. arts, etc.)
- Public speaking/performance (e.g. drama, language classes, etc.)
- Oral Communication curriculum strands (e.g. English or French)
- Community/togetherness/well-being: “check-ins” to build sense of connection and classroom community



Alternatives to use of webcam:

Research tells us that webcam use is a key way for students to forge strong connections to peers, their class, and their teacher. However, we recognize that there will be times or circumstances that a student may be unable to do so. In these cases, students should speak to their teacher. Alternative methods of demonstrating the required presence will be considered, such as: recording a video message to be sent only to the teacher, moving to a separate “Breakout Room” to present only to the teacher and/or subset of the class, recording a “voiceover” to a screen recording, etc. Such alternatives allow students to retain privacy as necessary, or to overcome anxiousness around presenting “live” online to a large group while still allowing teachers to be able to fully assess and evaluate student learning using conversations, observations, and products as required under the [Growing Success policy](#) (p. 39).

Tech Tips for Using Audio/Video during remote classes:

[How to “blur” backgrounds in Google Meet](#)

[How to eliminate background noise/voices in Google Meet \(noise cancellation\)](#)

[How to record video presentations and share via Google Drive as an alternative to “live” presentation \(screencasting\)](#)

Access to Technology

OCV Elementary School has a limited number of Chromebooks which we will be able to loan to OCV students who do not have access to a device for their learning. If your child(ren) is/are in need of a device, please complete this [form](#) (one form per child). Submissions will be reviewed and, if approved, a device will be assigned to the student for the 2022-2023 school year (to be returned to the OCDSB in June 2023). Devices can be picked up in-person at OCV



Elementary School, located at Confederation Education Centre (1645 Woodroffe Avenue), or shipped to another OCDSB school for pickup from the school office (during regular school hours). Should Internet connectivity be an issue for you, due to living in a rural community or for financial reasons, please contact ocvelementary@ocdsb.ca to request a hotspot. Parents who are still in possession of a Chromebook and/or hotspot from last year should keep the device(s) to use this school year.

Supplies

We want all our students to start the year off right! In addition to virtual learning, students may engage in learning activities that require other school supplies, such as writing and basic art materials. Please see this [voluntary list of school supplies](#) that you may consider purchasing.



We will be mailing all students the following standard supplies. Due to back orders on certain supplies, these will not be shipped before school starts. We are sorry for the delay and will send the supplies as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience!

Kindergarten	Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3-6
Pencils	Pencils	Pencils
Eraser	Eraser	Eraser
Scissors	Scissors	Scissors
Crayons	Crayons	Coloured pencils
Blank notebook	Ruler	Ruler
Construction Paper	Half blank, half lined notebook	Graphing notebook Lined notebook

Attendance

Regular school attendance is necessary for student success. Students are expected to attend their online classes daily, at the indicated times. To report an absence, please call our attendance line at 613-596-8753 and press 1 or email ocvelementaryattendance@ocdsb.ca.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day



As a school community, we recognize the importance of engaging in activities to raise awareness and understanding of the devastating impact of Canada's residential school system. This is a vital part of our commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action. All year, and most importantly on September 30th, students engage in learning focused on developing understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action and commemorating those whose lives were impacted by residential school experiences. This learning does not end on September 30th.

This meaningful day signals a year-long, ongoing commitment to learning that centres the truth of the harmful effects of colonialism, including the residential schools system that caused the loss of Indigenous lives, languages and traditions for generations. We encourage you to review the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#) and [Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action](#) (Youth friendly language outlines the 94 calls to action).

Resources

Our staff use a number of online resources to engage students and supplement teaching. Some of the resources that you can expect your child to access this year include:

- English Language: Lexia Core5 (K-5), Raz-Kids (K-6), Currents4Kids (3-6)
- French Language: *Je lis je lis littérature* (K-6), Raz-Kids (4-6), and *Infos-Jeunes* (3-6)
- Mathematics: Zorbits (K-3), Mathstoria (4-6) and Knowledgehook (3-6)

Looking to learn more about what technology we use at OCV? Check out our [OCV Tech Tools Choice Board](#).

OCV Elementary School Council

OCV Elementary is establishing our School Council for the year. School Council meetings will be held virtually each month using Google Meets. Meeting dates will be established once the School Council is formed. All parents are welcome to attend meetings. A link to the Google Meets will be sent out each month. Whether you can make one meeting or many, any involvement is appreciated. The first step is to form a School Council through elections. OCV Elementary School Council elections will take place on Wednesday, September 28th through electronic ballot. Any parent/guardian of a student enrolled in our school can be elected as a parent member of the school council. Parents can nominate themselves or another parent using these nomination forms.

[Form to nominate a candidate](#)

[Self-nomination form](#)

Each candidate profile will be posted on the OCV Elementary website. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, September 23rd. An important reminder - members are elected to the school council by the parent community. Once elected, the members elect, from amongst themselves, the officers of council chair (or co-chairs), vice chair, treasurer and secretary. This will happen at the first meeting scheduled in October.

Student Accident Insurance

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

The OCDSB does not provide student accident insurance coverage for student injuries. Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis. Parents may apply online at [Insure My Kids](#) or call 1-800-463-5437.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing accident insurance or student accident insurance for incidents that may not be covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or any additional medical plans they have. The accident insurance coverage options range from \$17.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies to accidents that occur outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

Want more OCV Elementary news and information....



Want to be in the know about all things OCV Elementary? Please follow us on Twitter @OCVElementary! We love to share all the wonderful teaching and learning happening in our classrooms as well as all our upcoming events. You can also stay up to date by visiting our website <https://ocvelementary.ocdsb.ca>.

Partners in Education

Home-School communication is a vital cornerstone to maintain the unique partnership between the school and parents. Teachers are your first point of contact for academic questions. Your child's educators will let you know about communication methods between home and school. All parent communication with educators needs to take place outside of class time so as not to interrupt teaching and learning and to respect the privacy of all involved. Parents may contact Vice Principals in cases where a concern cannot be resolved with the teachers.



- Jennifer O'Doherty, Kindergarten-Grade 1 Vice Principal, jennifer.odoherty@ocdsb.ca
- Marc Laliberté, Grades 2-6 Vice Principal, marc.laliberte@ocdsb.ca

Days of Significance

*Best
Wishes*

To all OCV Families celebrating or recognizing, Anant Chaturdashi, International Day of Democracy, Powley Day, International Day of Peace, Mabon (Autumn Equinox), International Day of Sign Languages, Franco-Ontarian Day, Rosh Hashanah or Navratri, we wish you all the best.

We're here to help!

Our office hours are 8:45-4:15. Please feel free to contact us by phone at 613-596-8753 or by email at ocvelementary@ocdsb.ca if you have any questions.



We look forward to a wonderful school year together!

Rian Bayne

Principal

Rian.Bayne@ocdsb.ca

