

July 23, 2020

Greetings OGA Parents and Families,

We have received a lot of questions regarding what school will look like at OGA. We have tried to manage and answer questions on Facebook and email as timely as possible. We have compiled the questions and are now placing the fluid answers on our website and Facebook page. Please read the answers carefully to ensure that you make the best decision for your family. Our staff participated in a web meeting yesterday and information was shared regarding parent concerns and questions. Our teachers are passionate about what OGA stands for and means to them. A teacher created a flyer that we will be posting as well reminding families what makes OGA...OGA. A lot of what makes OGA stand out are the many opportunities for out-of-the-box thinking, the positive peer relationships and culture, and an understanding of the gifted learner. To me, there is nothing else like it in central Florida. Our teachers are passionate about their students and their lessons. OGA teachers have been participating in trainings this summer to enhance their pedagogy. They have also been working on creating engaging learning experiences for all our students. We are committed to getting through these challenging times *TOGETHER!*

Who would have thought our quaint “old” building would be so perfect right now? Our classrooms are larger than a standard classroom, each having a front and back door. Our MakerSpace has been relocated to one of these classrooms to allow for social distancing while engaging in STEM activities. We have an updated Media Center which provides ample space for when students visit. We have a HUGE auditorium. We also have many beautiful outdoor learning spaces that can be used. Most importantly, we have an AWESOME and COMMITTED staff!

We have received the questions below from parents. Duplicated questions have been removed.

**Q. Can you provide some additional details as to how the face-to-face learning model will be implemented for the fall?**

A. OGA will be following all guidelines set forth by OCPS, including traffic pattern indicators that will be put in place in all common areas to assist with social distancing. We will also utilize **both classroom** doors to reduce the number of students in hallways during transitions and relieve any potential congestion.

Each grade level will have a designated and supervised area in the morning and afternoon. Staff will monitor interactions and ensure students are wearing their face masks and/or face shields. We will utilize the “grab-and-go” method for breakfast, where students will “take” their breakfast to their designated area.

Lunches will be spread over different areas in the school: the cafeteria, outside when practical, classrooms, and the Owlbert Oasis. All students will be required to wear a mask both in and out of the classroom, except when eating or drinking.

**Q. Will the children be “in a bubble” with the teacher 6 feet away just working on a digital platform? I’ve heard rumors about no recess, no PE not even library books or specials.**

A. As stated in the OCPS FAQs, physical education courses will be modified to address the physical environment, including outdoor instruction (weather permitting) with social distancing

guidelines, personal hygiene that includes hand washing and wearing face coverings, according to OCPS guidelines; and instructional strategies that focus more on individual pursuits or skills. Additional guidelines will be shared from the Health/PE department for instructors once models have been finalized. Teachers will practice social distancing to the full extent feasible.

Students will have recess and all Special Areas. We are formulating a plan for library books to ensure they are sanitized and shelved in an appropriate fashion to meet OCPS guidelines.

**Q. Will before and/ or aftercare be offered? What about clubs and other electives?**

A. Yes. The YMCA will be offering before and after care for students. We have posted the flyer for registration.

We are planning on having clubs and electives.

**Q. Are we able to change our selection in the middle of the fall semester? I'm primarily asking about a change between Option 1 (face-to-face) and Option 3 (LaunchED@Home). For instance, if we choose LaunchED@Home and then our area starts to better control the virus spread by mid-October, would the kids be welcomed back on campus at this time? Or would they have to wait until January?**

A. Keep in mind our plans are fluid and could change. However, the current commitment is as follows:

- LaunchED@Home – **9 weeks with the option for the full first semester**
- Face-to-Face – **9 weeks with the option for the full first semester**

**Q. The information from last week's School Board meeting indicated families would be asked to commit to one "way of learning" for a semester. Why do these options end in December? Will they be available still for the second semester to decrease the interruption?**

A. Updated per OCPS: Keep in mind our plans are fluid and could change. However, the current commitment for the three models is as follows:

- LaunchED@Home – **9 weeks with the option for the full first semester**
- Face-to-Face – **9 weeks with the option for the full first semester**
- OCVS/FLVS – **full first semester**

Exceptions can be made within the first 9 weeks for any of the instructional models on a **case-by-case basis if a student is not experiencing success.**

OCVS/FLVS full-time programs do not have continual enrollment, so those families who do not enroll at the start of the first semester will not have the opportunity to enroll again until the second semester if a change is desired. Unlike LaunchED@Home and Face-to-Face instructional models, the scope and sequence of the OCVS/FLVS full-time program is not similar and switching from full-time virtual school back into a student's enrolled school in the middle of the semester can be disruptive.

**Q. Is there a possibility of a hybrid application between Option 1 and Option 3, where the kids come to campus part of the week and do schoolwork through LaunchED@Home the other days?**

A. The options provided by OCPS are: Face-to-Face (required by the state), OCPS LaunchED@Home or Orange County Virtual \*(There is not a hybrid option).

**Q. Do you have any teachers that have officially stepped down, due to a discomfort in being in the classroom that may be interested in teaching students in a home?**

A. No.

**Q. Are grades 2-5 going to have one teacher plus a specials teacher for the day?**

A. Students in grades 2-5 will safely transition to their departmentalized classroom using the designated classroom door (front door or back door). Students will socially distance up to 6 feet when feasible and follow directional signage while transitioning in the hallways to their scheduled special area (Art, Music, PE, French). There will be a slight delay upon entry to provide time to sanitize, if necessary.

**Q. Are teachers all going to have a blend of f2f and LaunchED@Home students or will teachers be assigned a f2f class and other teacher a LaunchED@Home class?**

A. I do not have the final numbers for students registered for LaunchED@Home or face-to-face. However, at this time, teachers will have a blend of both.

**Q. If we pick f2f but someone at home doesn't feel good, do our kids do LaunchED@Home until the person feels better?**

A. Yes. This is one of the reasons that the LaunchED@Home plan is extremely beneficial.

**Q. Do I only keep kids that don't feel good home, and do they do LaunchED@Home if they can or miss the day?**

A. Students who are sick or in quarantine would be able to temporarily utilize the OCPS LaunchED@Home until the student is able return to school. If a child is ill and cannot do lessons, they will be able to take an absence just as they would if they were sick on a regular (pre-pandemic) school day.

**Q. What if kids are f2f but can't handle it (the mask, the distance, etc.) can they switch to LaunchED@Home?**

A. Exceptions can be made within the first 9 weeks for any of the instructional models on a case-by-case basis if a student is not experiencing success.

**Q. What if the student signs up for LaunchED@Home and can't focus and stay in one place? Can they transfer to f2f?**

A. Exceptions can be made within the first 9 weeks for any of the instructional models on a case-by-case basis if a student is not experiencing success.

**Q. If OGA students are already spending time with certain students wouldn't be helpful to cluster them in the same class (f2f or LaunchED@Home) so the students can continue to work together without additional exposure to more people?**

A. No. Many factors are considered when creating class assignments before the beginning of the school year to ensure semi-equal distribution of students. Students are assigned to classes based on input from teachers and leadership team.

**Q. How will LaunchED@Home work? Will the same classroom f2f teacher be managing the in-person kiddos and the virtual kiddos?**

A. Students will follow the standard school schedule and bell times. Teachers will provide daily instruction utilizing web conferencing technology. The daily student-teacher interactions will provide a structure similar to that in a classroom setting where teachers will facilitate and guide student learning. The curriculum and seat time will mirror face-to-face instruction. As of today, classes will be comprised of face-to-face students and LaunchED@Home students. Again, this may all change based on the numbers of parents who choose these options.

**Q. How will specials work?**

A. Students will socially distance up to 6 feet when feasible and follow directional signage while transitioning in the hallways to their scheduled special area (Art, Music, PE, French). Students will wear their face masks and/or face shields while in class.

**Q. How will group activities work in a F2F environment? (Considering social distancing guidelines and all that). The virtual/LaunchED@Home environment?**

Examples provided by OGA teachers:

Science: During LaunchED@Home, our class will be able to see Science Phenomena, with real-time experiments to demonstrate amazing science inquiry. Students will have access to ScienceWorld magazine online, MOSA Mack with investigations that can be performed at home, and Nearpod lessons that allow kids to join in with questions and immediate feedback.

Math: Students will be able to engage in real-world problem solving, Project Based Learning (PBL), Math from M3 Project for gifted curriculum, spiral reviews, and math contests online such as NOETIC or MATH OLYMPIADS. We will use Quizziz and Microsoft Teams for both science and math lessons and Canvas for a variety of interactive lessons and assessments. During brain breaks, we will also have access to KIDSDiscover for quality non-fiction reading and Curiosity Stream for awesome videos. STEM will be incorporated all the way through.

Social Studies: PBL based with an emphasis on discussions and debates (virtual breakout rooms for small groups and collaboration); online DBQs; middle school students can complete in the

OCPS History Fair (aka National History Day). This year's theme "Communication in History: A Key to Understanding."

Civics: Constitutional Convention, a recreation of the Federalists and Anti Federalists conflict, debate whether or not Constitution should be ratified; simulated congressional hearing(s); elections; Document Based Questions (DBQs) such as "Should the Electoral College Be Abolished?" and "Campaign Propaganda: Which Strategies Would You Use?"

World History: A PBL "Why did civilizations fall from their Golden Ages, and what lessons can we learn from what happened?" & "How can today's citizens prevent a civilization from falling?"  
Document Based Questions (DBQs)

**Q. For OGA kiddos in particular, will there be any modifications to the daily schedule that might include them not being online for the entire school day? (This seems counterproductive to the way they learn in a gifted program...)**

A. Teachers are able to gauge their classrooms as they see fit. OGA teachers are highly qualified and understand the needs of our students. They are committed to providing high level, engaging instruction to all our students.

**Q. I'm curious whether students will have access to all the things that make OGA compelling...the media center, the various STEM games and manipulatives, microscopes, the art and music rooms, etc. Will students who attend face to face be able to use the resources that make OGA so special?**

A. As of today, YES....students who attend face-to-face will be able to enjoy all the resources that make OGA special.

**Q. We wanted to know about class size? (Grade 2). Will the desks be separated? Will all students wear masks? What about lunch, will it take place in classrooms to limit group settings?**

A. As of today, if all students choose face-to-face in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, there would only be 14 students per class. However, this number could be inaccurate based on parent decisions that I am not aware of. Numbers should be released to schools next week.

Yes, desks will be separated.

Yes, students will be required to wear either face masks, face shields, or both.

Lunch will have limited group settings to maintain social distancing.

**Q. Will every student be provided with a laptop for each of the three options: face-to-face, LaunchED@Home and OCVS?**

A. For the 2020-21 school year, devices will be provided to all OGA students who are participating in face-to-face and LaunchED@Home @Home models. OCVS students are not provided devices.

Thank you for taking the time to review the questions and answers. Again, please use the information to make the best decision for your family. LaunchED@Home and Face-to-Face provide the most seamless option for our students as well as ensure that we maintain funding to sustain all of our staff and continue to provide the exceptional resources for our students.

**Quote from an OGA Teacher: “It won’t always be easy, but it will be worth it!”**

Sincerely,

*Britt*

Britt Despenza  
Principal  
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