

Hello Landsharks!

After today...there are 7 school days until most of us are back in Da'Tank again! To date, over 90% of Landsharks have chosen to come back for face to face instruction on September 8.

Feedback about our first week from faculty and students is in sync...things are going as well as can be expected given *conditions on the ground*: **teachers are** prepared and ready, **students are** prepared and ready, **parents are** encouraging their students to **read directions and contact faculty** to solve technology issues or get answers to questions, as well as encouraging students to be on time to all classes and **ready for instruction**. I can't thank you all enough! We as parents sometimes have a tendency to want to lawnmower our children's challenges one by one...they as our children will fall apart in front of us before anyone else, now a lot of us are home and accessible at a second's notice to listen to; they are in front of us going through these challenges....that can be a recipe for anxiety for the student, parent, and the teacher! Instead of allowing that recipe to cook, Landshark parents trust their students to handle their challenges and trust our faculty and staff to have their student's success as their number one goal always! Accountability is a big part of life at Oceanside and you all continue to make that statement a reality on a daily basis.

We have been and will continue to monitor State Department guidelines, as well as follow other districts and schools who have already begun their school year using a hybrid or face to face model. Although conditions on the ground seem to be stabilizing (guidelines) we are still ready to shift and pivot should we find it necessary. You can expect another update with a "final" plan for face to face logistics before September 5.

We know there are worries and concerns and we also realize you are aware that as hard as school staff will work to follow, encourage and mandate guidelines, there are risks associated with being around other humans. Understanding those concerns, should your family feel like our precautions are not sufficient to ease your concerns, please reach out to our Academic Dean, Mrs. Christina Brown at CBrown@Landsharks.org and consider enrolling in our distance learning cohort through semester 1. Because of our low interest in distance learning, there are spots available for our current students to make that switch. Please note, that the longer you wait to make that switch (if you are going to make it) the more challenging it will be for your student and our faculty.

On a super exciting note...new student lottery applications for the 2021-2022 school year open September 1! As you all know, we ended the application pool this year with almost 400 families still left on the waitlist. Applications are accepted until October 31st with the lottery to be held on November 16th. Please know that we attribute 85% of our applicants to word of mouth referrals...the other 15% from media coverage. I've shared with you all before and I'll say it again...that is one of the many reasons WE ARE WHO WE ARE: **Sharks recognize other Sharks!** Our families more than anyone know which students would find success in our environment and which could struggle. As transparent as we strive to be when it comes to the

great opportunities as well as challenges of being a Landshark, no one is as knowledgeable as our current families can be. This is the time to let all your friends, colleagues and anyone who has Landshark potential know, the time is nearing for the opening of our application portal!

- Coffee with Corley - **New Landshark parent meeting** - I am working to find a space on September 8th to meet with parents who are new to Oceanside. This is **not a mandatory meeting!** I want to schedule two sessions, one for morning students and one for afternoon students. The morning session will tentatively start at 8:00 a.m. place TBD and the afternoon session will begin at 12:15. My goal is to allow you to head to the TBD location after you drop off your student at school. I am looking forward to meeting you and spend a little time going over life as a Landshark! Again, not mandatory. We will send details out closer to 9/8.
- The school building is closed on Fridays in order to deep clean and sanitize. Faculty and staff are still available through email on Fridays, but the **front office is closed.**
- 9th graders are coming to school to **MAP test** per State Department guidelines on **August 27 and August 31..** Questions please contact Mrs. Shackel-Scott at bshackel-scott@Landsharks.org
- **Board Elections** - Due to the state mandated school closures last spring, as you know, we were forced to postpone our elections. We had 6 wonderful candidates who were running for 2 spots on our board. It has been decided to open up the application process to all qualified candidates and have cemented an election date of 9/29/20. Application format and additional information about the process will be sent via email by September 3. If you are interested in the volunteer position or have questions prior to applying, please feel free to reach out to me directly: BCorley@Landsharks.org or any member of our current Board.
- **Clubs** - We are updating student club and club sponsor information which will be on our website prior to September 8. Remember that clubs are 100% student driven. Once a student shows interest in forming a club, we help with the search of a volunteer sponsor (could be a parent or community member) and once it's approved, it becomes an Oceanside sponsored club.
- **The State Department of Education** wants to know **your opinion** about **state mandated testing** for this school year. Please follow this link and complete the survey at your earliest convenience:
<https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/news-releases/south-carolina-department-of-education-releases-assessment-waiver-survey-for-public-input/>

In closing I'd like to share an email from a student who was sharing with me what it was like to start the year virtually. He said: "This must be what online dating is like. You get to meet someone for a while before you meet them in person. I feel like my classes have had time to get to know each other on a different level before meeting in person".

Anonymous Landshark class of 2023

Thank you again for your continuous support! We have been fed like royalty over the last week between Team Teacher and parents volunteering to bring staff breakfast, lunch or snacks or just writing *love notes*. I can't thank you enough for the care, empathy and respect you show our faculty and staff daily. Remember to check our webpage www.oceansidecollegiateacademy.org and social media a couple of times a week to stay up to date on what's going on at school

Go Landsharks!!

B. Corley
Principal

Publix School Partners - Log in to publix.com/partners, create an account, then choose Oceanside from the list of schools. Once your phone number is registered, we just punch in our phone number while checking out. This should be a huge fund-raising opportunity for Oceanside!

Harris Teeter School Rewards - Log in to <https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education> and link your card to Oceanside!