

OIS UPDATE

The start of the new school year coincided with the launch of the second semester at Orinda Intermediate School, an indicator that the time has come to look ahead to springtime activities and the next school year. This year, even with the particular challenges of running a school during a pandemic and preparing for a return to in-person instruction via a hybrid model, plans for the upcoming academic year continue as always. The first week of January, OIS administrators and counselors met with Julie Parks, principal of Miramonte High School (MHS), and her team to discuss the transition process for the current eighth graders. In lieu of the annual OIS trip to MHS with the eighth graders, the transition team has scheduled a Zoom event for students on Monday, February 8th, and a parent/guardian webinar the following evening. In addition, the OIS team is beginning work on promotion activities for eighth graders.

Similarly, the OIS team is starting the transition process for the District's fifth graders. Typically, fifth grade families begin to receive correspondence from OIS in February, with an invitation to the Incoming Sixth Grade Parent Information Night. This year's event will also be a webinar.

As for distance learning, OIS teachers and students have become accustomed to the practices and procedures and have shown remarkable stamina and resilience. To minimize the disruption of routines, OIS has adopted a hybrid instructional model with a schedule that will remain the same as the distance learning schedule. Beginning January 19th, the start time for students will change to accommodate a later start time for Miramonte High School once in-person learning resumes. Additionally, Mondays have been changed from an asynchronous day so that all students will have a consistent schedule for synchronous instruction five days a week.

Upcoming Events:

- **January 19:** New Schedule Begins; 8:45 a.m. start time
- **January 21:** OIS Parents' Club Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- **January 25:** Synchronous Instruction (Advisory, Periods 4-6)
- **February 8:** MHS Zoom for 8th Graders, 8:45-10:00
- **February 9:** MHS Webinar for 8th Grade Families, 6:30 p.m.