



Opportunity Charter School
A Good Kind of Different

To Our Teachers, Students, and Parents—THANK YOU!

Here at OCS, our teachers, students, and staff have truly shown up, stayed engaged and supported each other during this difficult time.

Our teachers and staff have done an incredible job of ensuring our students get the level of attention they need while we've transitioned to remote learning. To create a meaningful learning environment, all of our teachers have received training on how to make most classes live so they resemble a traditional classroom. Each student has been assigned to a mentor, who calls them daily to check in and review their academic progress. Additionally, we developed an individualized learning plan for students with specific learning needs and each class has a special education teacher to offer even more support.

It comes as no surprise that our students have taken every opportunity to learn since we transitioned to teaching remotely. Daily, our students attend their live class through Google Meet, where they get to interact with their classmates and get extra support from their teachers. Our teachers also hold live office hours over Google Meet, where students drop in with questions—we have seen up to 19 students attend a teacher's live class at once. This transition has not been easy, however, our students have adapted to this new world with ease.

While this is an unprecedented and uncertain time, our teachers and staff have truly shown up for their students and our students have responded with an admirable eagerness for learning. This Spirit Week, we celebrate our students, our teachers, and our staff for all of their hard work this year.

OCS @ Home

While we cannot be together right now, that does not mean that our OCS spirit stops! This week we are taking Spirit Week online, so celebrate with us and feel free to share your photos! From Scavenger Hunt to Crazy Hat/Hair Day, this week will be focused on uniting our school and bringing joy to our students. Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and tag us in your best shots with #OCSSpirit.



Pajama Day

Monday, May 11th

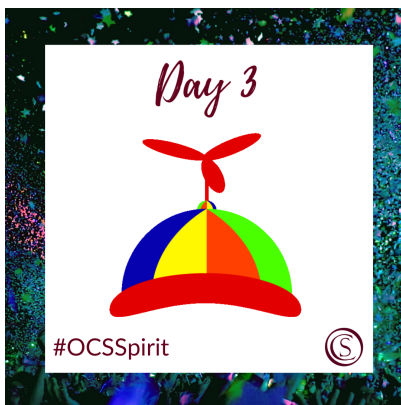
On this one day of the year, our students got to wear their pajamas to their virtual classes.



OCS Pride Day

Tuesday, May 12th

Students showed their school spirit by sporting their OCS gear!



Crazy Hat/Hair Day

Wednesday, May 13th

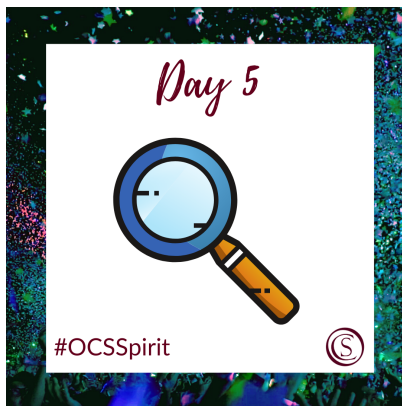
On this day, students get creative and wear their favorite hat or do their hair in a crazy and unusual way.

Represent Your Pet Day



Thursday, May 14th

Students will get an opportunity to share a photo of their pet with their classmates.



Scavenger Hunt

Friday, May 15th

We will invite students to find an item in their home for each letter of the alphabet. For example, "B" for banana. This will be a fun, creative, AND *educational* activity!

OCS Spotlight



Ms. Hazel, an OCS High School Social Studies teacher, has truly gone above and beyond to provide her students with the connection and dedication they need during this difficult time. She emails and calls her students daily to ensure they are staying engaged and provided with enough support, in addition to collaborating with other teachers for creative ideas. Most recently, she took her Seniors on a virtual tour of the White House given by Barack and Michelle Obama. Previously, Ms. Hazel had always wanted to take her students to Washington D.C. to tour the monuments and this virtual tour was the perfect opportunity to get her students right into the most important building of all. While Ms. Hazel admits that as a history teacher she will always prefer books over computers, she has created a fun, engaging, and educational online environment for all!

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Looking for something fun to do with your kids? Here are our recommendations for things students can do during their downtime in order to relax, have fun, and learn:

- **Listen to**

Podcasts: Podcasts are an entertaining way to learn something new. There are many educational podcasts teens will enjoy listening to, including highly-rated podcasts [Radiolab](#), [Science Friday](#), and [This American Life](#).

- **Try Meditation:** [Smiling Mind](#) is a free meditation app developed by psychologists and educators that offer a variety of programs for all ages. Use it 10 minutes a day for a daily dose of mindfulness and stillness.

- **Practice Language**

Skills: [Duolingo](#) is a website that makes learning a language fun! From French to Russian, Duolingo offers a variety of language students can learn through engaging activities. Remember, practice makes perfect!

- **A Virtual Safari:** You don't need a passport for this trip! Students can take a *virtual* trip to Africa through WildEarth's [SafariLIVE](#). SafariLIVE broadcasts real safaris as they happen live from the African wilderness.

OCS Parents Connect

Since OCS transitioned to remote learning, we have felt it is important to connect with our student's parents in new ways. Remote learning has been a group effort and we could not do this without the help of our wonderful parents. To ensure parents stay informed, we've hosted virtual events as way to introduce them to this new way of learning.

- **Back to School Night, Part 2:** In order to help parents navigate all the different platforms we use as a school we hosted a "Back to School Night: Part 2." Our first Back to School Night took place in October of 2019 where families came to the school and attended presentations by their

child's teachers to learn more about class expectations. Since distance learning has created a new set of expectations and it's a new territory to navigate, we felt as an administrative team that it was necessary to have a second one. Families were able to connect with each of their child's teachers through Google Meet where they were walked through how to use Google Classroom, Google Meet or any other website that is necessary for their class.

- **Virtual Town Hall:** On Monday, May 11th, OCS parents joined us for the very first Virtual Town Hall. At our Virtual Town Hall, parents had the opportunity to ask OCS staff all of the questions they had regarding the rest of the school year. This was an excellent opportunity for parents to connect with OCS, with other parents, and stay informed on how OCS is ensuring students stay connected as we teach remotely. Look out for an announcement regarding our next Town Hall in next week's newsletter!
- **Let your representatives know they need to Fund NY Schools!** Please go to www.fundnyschools.com and let your government officials know they need to FUND NY SCHOOLS!

IN OTHER NEWS

- Do you like to bake? We recommend this [Banana Bread recipe](#) from Bon Appetit.
- The New York Times paused their Coronavirus coverage to share columnist Roger Cohen's Ode to New York in [this Daily podcast episode](#).
- Does your child need additional technology? The city is providing free iPads to students. More information is available [here](#).



Facebook



Instagram



Website

Copyright © 2020 Opportunity Charter School, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a valued member of the Opportunity Charter School community.

Our mailing address is:

Opportunity Charter School
240 W. 113th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10026

[Add us to your address book](#)

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from this list.

