



Oregon Episcopal School

ALWAYS OPEN

Oregon Episcopal School

*RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROGRAM
2020-2021*

Frequently Asked Questions

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Frequently Asked Questions for Boarding Families

OEs is committed to bringing boarding students to campus this fall. We will continue to follow both Oregon and Federal safety guidelines and preventative measures to plan for a robust and engaging Residential Life Program for 2020-2021. We appreciate your communications and support, and offer the updated list of Frequently Asked Questions to communicate about planning for next year. If you have additional questions, please share them with Director of Residential Life/Assistant Head of Upper School for Community Sarah Grenert-Funk (grenertfunks@oes.edu) and we will add them to this document.

Updates and changes to any section will be indicated by an asterisk before the question and the date it was updated in **red, bolded text**.

***Will the dorm be open for the 2020-2021 year? (Updated: July 15)**

We plan for the dormitory and Residential Life Program to be open for the entirety of the 2020-2021 academic year, even if the Upper School is required to switch to full continuous learning at any point. Any decision to **not** open in the fall or to institute closures during the year would be due to local and federal health and department of education requirements. The School is currently working on our academic plan, which will consist of classroom-based classes that also incorporate continuous learning.

***Have you considered keeping the dorms closed and doing continuous learning for boarding students until the COVID-19 virus is more under control? (Updated: July 15)**

We are committed to opening the dorms in the fall. However, we will consider all alternatives based on evolving local and federal guidelines and how the virus is being contained in Oregon. As a result, we will be prepared for multiple contingencies should state or federal guidance change or local or regional conditions become such that we must implement another approach. Students who cannot return to the dorms or who choose not to will be supported in continuous learning from home. It is important to be prepared for changes as we approach the fall semester. We are closely monitoring the situation in Oregon and elsewhere in the United States and will make decisions and pivot our plans accordingly. Our highest priority is the safety and well-being of our students, families, employees, and greater community members.

***What if a student does not feel safe returning to campus and prefers to continue continuous learning from home? (Updated: July 15)**

The School will support students who cannot return to campus. Details are outlined in the “Residential Life Reopening Plan 2020-21” document. If your family chooses this option, we will work with you to customize your schedule for optimal learning and establish a robust system of support so your student can thrive in a continuous learning environment. We will ask you to indicate your choice by August 5, 2020 by using this form. We will also ask that you indicate at this point your feelings about returning to campus in the spring if you choose not to come in the fall. *This information is NON-BINDING AND IS FOR OUR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.*

My visa appointment is not until October or later in the fall. I want to commit to the fall, but I cannot arrive in August. What do I do? (NEW: July 15)

The School will work with individual students and families who face travel and visa appointment restrictions outside of their control. Depending on the date of the appointment and other factors, we will work with you to make arrangements. Students will join the school remotely until they are able to travel to campus and go through a quarantine period.

***Will the school require a quarantine? (Updated: July 15)**

We are asking boarding students to RETURN TO CAMPUS ON AUGUST 30 or 31. They will be required to self-quarantine at home for 7 days prior to arrival on campus. Students will then quarantine on campus while participating in a blended in-person and online orientation. We are also planning to test boarding students for COVID-19—even if they are asymptomatic—upon their arrival in the Portland area and again 7-14 days later. More information about arrival, quarantine, and testing is in the Reopening Plan document and will continue to be shared as we approach move-in dates.

***When is move-in for new students and prefects? (Updated: July 15)**

As details about the start of Upper School have started to form more clearly, we have decided to push back our move-in dates to August 30 and 31. If you already made flight arrangements for August 23 or 24, please contact Sarah right away. We can accommodate you if needed.

***Is there an option for off-campus quarantine? (Updated: July 15)**

Due to the responsibility associated with living in a dorm setting, we are now asking *all* students to quarantine for 7 days at home before coming to campus. Families should use that time to determine what to pack, be in communication with dorm

faculty about arrival dates, review our new expectations for dorm students outlined in our Residential Life Handbook, and prepare for travel.

When will Upper School school programming begin for day and dorm students?

Upper School all-student orientation for new students will be Tuesday, September 8th and Upper School programming for all students will begin on Wednesday, September 9. As noted previously, from August 30 / 31 through September 7, students will quarantine on campus while participating in a blended in-person and online residential orientation.

Should I think about packing differently this year?

In order to maintain clean and hygienic rooms, students should limit their items to necessary belongings only (clothes, toiletries, school supplies, bedding, and a few special personal items.) Any additional items, especially those used for decoration, can be left at home or stored in on-campus storage until further notice. We will have room checks throughout the week to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness.

Will there be online learning if a student cannot arrive on campus or can only arrive late? How will grades be calculated? Will their transcript be accepted by colleges?

Faculty are already hard at work developing classes that have the flexibility to be taught on campus or online. Students who are unable to arrive on campus in time for the start of classes, or those who choose to remain home for the fall, will be able to continue their learning in an online environment until they arrive. The dorm faculty and academic resource coordinators will support students in continuous learning.

Information about grading next year under continuous learning or a hybrid model will likely be announced later in the summer. At this time, we anticipate all core courses receiving a traditional letter grade; arts and physical education classes are under review. Rest assured, we have our students' best interests at heart when making these types of decisions and will never create a punitive grading model.

All academic work counts equally toward our graduation and diploma requirements. Our college counseling office and senior administrators remain in regular contact with colleges and universities throughout the country; we have been assured that all OES course credits and grades will be accepted by colleges and universities.

How will the dorm be set up to ensure the safety of students?

The only way we will be 100% safe is if the school remains closed. Therefore, we cannot guarantee a student will not contract COVID-19 or any other illness while traveling to OES or while in our care. However, we will follow all best practices, government-mandated guidelines, and department of health recommendations to lessen the risks associated with COVID-19 as much as possible. As is consistent with state and federal guidance based on the size of our rooms, and the decisions of hundreds of boarding schools, colleges, and universities, our students will continue to live in doubles and have a roommate *if single rooms are not available*. However, we will create new routines and protocols to limit exposure and transmission in dormitory bedrooms, bathrooms, and social and dining spaces. We will also follow our comprehensive communicable disease protocols and will isolate any student who is sick, or who exhibits any signs of COVID-19, from the broader dorm population. See the Residential Life Reopening 2020-21 plan for more detailed descriptions of these measures.

Will the School require students to wear masks in the dorms and in classrooms if classes resume?

Yes, the dorms will require masks in public spaces during quarantine, on store trips, and during other indoor off-campus activities. When classes resume in person, masks will be required for all students and adults in the OES community and will be worn in classrooms, in any school buildings, and outside when physical distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be maintained.

Does United Health Insurance cover COVID-19 testing and treatment?

The safety and well-being of your student is of primary importance to us. In that spirit, below please find valuable information concerning the student health insurance plan coverage as it relates to COVID-19. Please note this is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of the benefits/exclusions in the plan. Please refer to the plan summary and brochure/certificate of coverage for additional details.

Treatment

- Yes. This is covered under the plan and treated as “any other sickness” – no separate limits, co-pays, etc. This will help ensure that your student has access to care and the insurance will help offset any expenses incurred.

Testing

- Symptomatic: Yes. If your student is displaying symptoms, the testing will be covered. The testing needs to be ordered by a physician (or appropriately licensed healthcare professional) and administered by a qualified provider.
- Asymptomatic/Screening: A specific determination is still under review. At this point, we need to plan with you to cover these costs outside of the student insurance policy.

Where is my student covered?

Your student does not need to be at school to be covered. Your student's coverage is in force and covered expenses are eligible for reimbursement anywhere in the world. This includes the student's home country (thru 12/31/20)

As you know, the situation is constantly evolving. Below please find links provided by United Healthcare Student Resources (guidelines, FAQ's, etc.) These links are updated on a frequent basis in order to address changing dynamics and questions as they arise.

<https://www.uhcsr.com/news-main> - "Welcome page"

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/resource-library/news/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19.html> – detailed information (for providers) concerning testing, treatment, coding and reimbursement.

Will the dormitories stay open for breaks? (Updated: July 15)

At this point, we plan to retain the usual academic calendar and the dorms will remain open over Thanksgiving Break with an additional charge for meals and staffing. The School will communicate to families whether the dormitories will remain open for future breaks (Winter Break, Spring Break) as decisions are made. All residential students will be tested for COVID-19 upon return to school after any extended break and may be asked to self-quarantine while at home and when they return.

What about long breaks, such as Winter Break and Spring Break? Should International students return to their home countries or stay in the United States?

At this time, it is the recommendation of the School that international students not return to their home countries for breaks for the 2020-2021 school year. Doing so could put the student at greater health risks, dependent upon quarantine protocols and testing availability, or the student may run into travel issues on account of travel bans. The School will update recommendations as information becomes available.

What will the School do if there is a case of COVID-19 at OES?

In the event of a verified COVID-19 case, Oregon and CDC guidelines will require that the School take a specific period of time to clean and disinfect areas where that student was present. The School will create a separate, designated area to place students who show symptoms of, or test positive for, COVID-19 until they are cleared by our medical staff. If a student or faculty member shows symptoms, our partnership with the Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) healthcare system, as well as our licensure from the Oregon Department of Human Services, allows us to have access to COVID-19 testing for the entire residential life population, and those results will be returned in most cases within 48-72 hours. The School is planning to perform those tests on site by a medical professional. Students who come into contact with a student or anyone who tests positive will need to quarantine for a period of time determined by health authorities and our medical staff.

***If a boarding student is diagnosed with COVID-19 at school will the dorms be closed? (Updated: July 15)**

Students who live within driving distance or who have a relative or local guardian willing to host them if they are sick will be encouraged to go home or stay with their guardian for the isolation period. In the event this is not possible, we are designating 10 isolation beds in the dorms with a designated bathroom and shower room. If a boarding student is diagnosed with COVID-19 they will be isolated in one of these rooms. Their roommate and other students in their cohort group(s) will also be quarantined and tested. Unless local authorities require us to close, we feel we can stay open and care for students who test positive for COVID-19.

What health and medical services will be available to students this year?

We have a full-time school nurse (Morgan McFadyen, RN) whose office is located in the dorm building. In addition, and as has been the case in previous years, we will continue our relationship with our OHSU medical doctors and nurses at a nearby clinic. We have also contracted with a local hospital system that will review our entire health procedures and provide testing for boarding students and other members of the community, if required. These medical professionals are also available and on-call 24 hours a day. More information about our healthcare support for next year is forthcoming.

Are there any new policies for the Residential Life Program as a result of COVID-19?

Yes, there will be several new policies and procedures this year. We are currently finalizing those details. In the meantime, one major change is that all OES Residential Life students whose parents live outside of the United States will be required to name and have a designated person or family that represents them who lives in the United

States. We prefer to have the adult representative live in Oregon or the western region of the United States within a 3-5 hour driving radius of the OES campus. The adult representative must assume responsibility for the student whenever the student cannot stay in the dorms and cannot get home. This may be during breaks, during medical or other emergencies, during pandemics or natural disasters, or if the student is facing disciplinary action and needs to be away from the dorm for a period of time. The adult representative will not be expected to assume financial responsibility for the student's tuition or other school charges. The purpose of this new policy is to ensure the continuity of the academic year for all students and to provide the necessary flexibility in the event that students need to vacate campus and cannot get home. If you do not have a local guardian, please contact Sarah Grenert-Funk (grenertfunks@oes.edu) as soon as possible to discuss options.

Can my child stay with another family this year?

To ensure each child's safety, the School has a specific and extensive legal process for Residential Life students who wish to live off-campus for the year. Students must be in residence with direct family members and/or legal guardians who can make medical decisions on their behalf. This legal process includes transferring official guardianship of your child to another person and is a permanent residence for your child for the year. Families wishing to learn more about this option should reach out to Sarah Grenert-Funk (grenertfunks@oes.edu) who will direct your questions to the appropriate administrator at OES.

How did OES determine the refund amount for the 2019-20 school year?

Almost all of the school's revenue comes from tuition dollars, and more than 70% of the school's expenses provide salaries and benefits to the employees who support the school's students.

The discretionary facility closure credits were entirely derived from savings due to the campus being closed by the Oregon Governor's order. When the campus was closed, the decision was made to continue supporting all employees through the 2019-20 academic year. As such, savings were realized in the "Program" and "Physical Plant" sections of the school's budget. In the Program category, savings were realized by not having co-curricular activities such as athletics and performing arts, not having trips, not purchasing food (but still paying our food service workers), and not purchasing supplies for the classroom. Savings in the Physical Plant category were generated by not purchasing fuel for vehicles, a reduction in utility bills, and other marginal savings.

All those savings were combined, and shared with families via the credit. As you can see, the percentage credited to boarding families was slightly higher than the percentage credited to day students.

Please feel free to send questions or comments to Gretchen Reed, CFO (reedg@oes.edu).

	Tuition	Credit	%
PK	\$ 22,000	\$ 1,100	5.0%
K	\$ 28,900	\$ 1,100	3.8%
Lower School	\$ 29,600	\$ 1,100	3.7%
Middle School	\$ 34,100	\$ 1,100	3.2%
Upper School	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,100	3.1%
Boarding	\$ 65,100	\$ 3,300	5.1%

Will OES refund residential life fees if travel bans or other unforeseen circumstances associated with COVID-19 prevent a student from coming to campus?

If a student cannot get to campus and is engaged in online learning, the School will review tuition savings and may apply a discretionary credit. This would not apply if the School adopts a staggered arrival system for the first few weeks but would apply to students who cannot come to campus for an extended time due to travel restrictions and/or visa issues.

Will OES refund residential life fees if the dorm is closed for part of the year?

If the School cannot open the dormitories on time as planned, or is forced to close the dormitories for any portion of the year, the School will review tuition savings and may apply a discretionary credit.

Can I defer the admission of my child and enroll in January 2021?

No. Students who anticipate that they will be unable to arrive on campus no sooner than January 2021 should engage in their classes online until they are able to join us on campus.

Can I defer enrollment of my child and enroll in August 2021?

We will not defer enrollment. Students who choose not to continue enrollment may reapply for the 2021-22 school year.