

OSC FAQs

OSC Enrollment

1. How does the open enrollment process work for OSC? Is it a different process for LES and OSC?
 - a. The open enrollment process is the same for OSC as other district schools. If your child is already open enrolled to the School District of Lodi, they will not need to reapply to be considered for admission to OSC. If you are pursuing open enrollment for the first time this year, you will need to be accepted by the district before officially being admitted to OSC. You may elect to apply for the OSC lottery while you wait for your open enrollment application to be processed.
2. What is the application process? Do you have to re-apply each year?
 - a. If you would like your child to be considered for OSC, you must submit an application during the enrollment period of February 15-March 15. All new students must have an application. You may apply with a paper application or with an electronic application via Infinite Campus. If OSC receives more applications than we have open spots, we will hold a lottery to fill those open spots. Notice of the lottery will be sent to all families that have applied when the lottery threshold has been reached. Current OSC students do not need to reapply; a student who is placed in OSC has the option to be in OSC for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades without reapplying. Students with older siblings who are current OSC students and will be attending OSC at the same time receive automatic enrollment.
3. When you join OSC, are you committed for 3 years? Or can you change your mind?
 - a. No, you may opt to place your child in an LES classroom at the end of the school year rather than continuing with OSC.
4. How many 3rd graders are generally accepted each year?
 - a. The number of students admitted to OSC varies each year, depending on how many 5th grade students we have and how many students we have at each grade level. This year, we anticipate 27 openings for the 2021-2022 school year with 25 3rd grade openings, 1 4th grade opening, and 1 5th grade opening.
5. What is the cost to attend OSC?
 - a. OSC is a public charter school that is part of the School District of Lodi, there is no additional cost to attend.

OSC Life

6. How is OSC different from LES?
 - a. Both LES and OSC offer high quality education for students in Lodi. The main difference is that the principal structure for OSC is multi-age, project-based instruction. We are student driven, and we strive for individualized instruction as much as possible. We also do more fundraising to support student learning such as field studies. Our two main fundraisers are lemonade stands at local events and the spring musical.
7. What are the benefits of OSC to students?

- a. Students are able to drive their learning and pursue topics that interest them; crucial skills like literacy are tied to project-based learning; individual instruction meets the students where they are. We also stress the importance of community through our collaborative approach (for example, mentor groups and tribe groups) and have a 1:10 adult to student ratio with 8 adults working exclusively with our 80 students.
8. What does a typical day look like?
 - a. OSC students have many of the same parts of their day as LES students such as DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time. They attend specials classes like PE, Art, Music, and SEL with their homeroom (all OSC students, multi-age 3-5th graders) and Recess and Lunch with all of OSC. (Fridays, they were able to have lunch with their grade level friends at LES; we are hoping to continue that when get back to a typical schedule.) They participate in math with their grade-level OSC classmates. They have homeroom time for read alouds with their advisor. They also have project time each day when they work independently or with their tribe or mentor groups.
9. How much homework should an OSC student expect?
 - a. OSC students are expected to read each night at home. Otherwise, most work is completed during the school day. As students near the completion of a project, they may opt to spend some time at home working on it.
10. Do the OSC students mix with their grade levels for music or other specials?
 - a. No, OSC students attend specials with their homerooms, just like LES classrooms attend specials with their classrooms and not the entire grade level. For music, OSC students have Mrs. Weber as a teacher while LES students have Ms. Zimmerman. The PE, art and SEL teachers are the same for OSC and LES students.
11. What is the Think Tank?
 - a. OSC students are encouraged to work independently as much as possible throughout the week with the support of their advisors and their mentors. At the end of the week, we have a mentor check-in when the students review their work from the week to see if they missed anything. If they did, they spend some time in the Think Tank where they can get extra support from the OSC team to finish up any missing work or spend extra time on concepts that they found to be tricky.
12. The large space of OSC seems like it could be overwhelming at times? What tools do students have to use if they need a smaller space? With the open concept and the large number of students, is there a space for kids to go to if they are feeling overwhelmed?
 - a. We talk a lot in OSC about finding that “just right” space to work in. Sometimes that means working in the big space, but sometimes that means finding a quiet space with fewer distractions. We do have two smaller classrooms at the back of our large space called “studios” where we encourage students to go for a quieter space. We also have a variety of seating options for students. Sometimes that “just right” spot is a desk or a table; sometimes it’s under a table or behind the couch! We have a room with exercise equipment if they need a movement break.
13. When do OSC students see their LES grade level friends? Is there interaction with students at LES? Do LES and OSC students have recess together?

- a. In a typical year, OSC students have lunch and lunch recess with their LES grade level friends. They also participate in the same sports teams, scout and church groups and other outside activities with their LES friends.
14. How do the rest of the students at LES feel about the OSC group? Is there any jealousy? Do they look at them as the same school or a group of kids that are different?
- a. When OSC first started, we did have some issues with the two groups of students looking at each other differently. In our 9th year, we don't see as much of that now.
15. Can a student opt out at any point in the program?
- a. While we hope that students who join us in 3rd grade will stay in OSC all 3 years, we know that sometimes families need to make other choices. Students can opt to move into an LES classroom at the end of 3rd or 4th grade.

Curriculum and Project Based Learning

16. How does project-based learning work?
- a. For OSC, project-based learning is student driven and guided by advisors. Students follow a developed project process that includes selecting a topic, going on a quest for knowledge (research), narrowing their topic down, completing field studies, and meeting with advisors (one-on-one advisory meetings) and mentors (mentor meetings) throughout the process. Sometimes, the project topics will fit under an umbrella theme (for example, World Cultures, All about Wisconsin, etc.), and other times, the students may pursue whatever interests them. At the end of a project, the student produces evidence of their learning through written papers, displays of information, and interactive components that are used to teach others about their project.
17. Are the curriculum and learning targets at OSC the same as corresponding grade levels at LES?
- a. Yes, OSC students have the same common core standards as LES.
18. For special education, are caseloads shared between LES and OSC?
- a. At this time, we have enough students in OSC to have our own special education teacher, Mr. Endres, who spends all of his time in OSC.
19. Do LES and OSC students use the same math program and have the same math assignments?
- a. OSC does use the same math curriculum as LES, which is Everyday Math. They do complete the same work, but the pacing may be different from LES so they wouldn't necessarily be working on the same assignments on a given day.
20. Does OSC do the same standardized testing as LES? Which ones are they?
- a. Yes, OSC does participate in district-mandated and state-mandated standardized testing such as iReady, Badger, Dibels, Forward.
21. Does Project Based Learning focus on students' interests?
- Project process looks the same no matter what the project is; sometimes there is an overarching theme that helps students narrow down a topic that fits under that umbrella. We connect a lot of literacy to projects, but also offer other opportunities, like through book groups, to work on those foundational skills outside of the project.

After OSC

22. Do students transition well going back into traditional school in 6th grade?
 - a. The feedback we have received from the middle school: OSC students are great at managing their time, working together in groups, showing empathy and being inclusive, and having a strong sense of community. When we tracked data such as honor roll, and grades, OSC students consistently were placed on the honor roll at the middle school. Honestly, the biggest criticism that we have received is that OSC students don't always remember to ask before going to the bathroom when they get to middle school.
23. In general, how have OSC students transitioned back to the "traditional classroom" in Middle and High School after learning in a collaborative environment? What have been the greatest challenges and/or successes?
 - a. Our first group of OSC 5th grade students graduated last year! We have received a lot of positive feedback from alumni families as well as middle school teachers. In fact, many of our alumni come back and volunteer their time at events like project night because they want to stay involved in the OSC community. We are not currently tracking our alumni students as far as grades or honors, but when we did, our OSC alumni were consistently on the honor at both the middle school and high school. Parents report that our students transition well to middle school.
24. I have questions that I don't see here
 - a. Please feel free to reach out to us any time! Email is the best way to reach us now. Email oscadvisors@lodischoolswi.org to contact the OSC team with any questions you have. We look forward to connecting with you!