



# Oceanside Schools

*Anchored Together*  
BY PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEOPLE

## Details regarding our Ventilation Systems

We are currently working with a district-wide HVAC team that is in the process of opening up and servicing every univent in each of our buildings. This process includes cleaning, vacuuming, and flushing the systems, testing the dampers (which modulates and bring in the fresh “air changes per hour” – our current ACPH is 20 changes per hour), disinfecting, and changing/updating filters as needed. Typically, univents run on an occupied / unoccupied cycle – **however, based on a CDC recommendation, our univents and exhaust fans will now remain in “occupied mode” for 24 hours a day / 7 days a week in order to increase the ventilation of the building.**

You have heard much about MERV filters. To clarify, MERV filters are equipped to outfit the design of the univent it goes into. The NYS DOH mandated malls (and liked sized facilities) use a MERV-13 filter (or industry equivalent) because of the capacity of the space and the volume of people the large space can hold. As a result, you need to circulate air at a more rapid pace than you need for a smaller space.

Our classrooms (typically sized on average are approximately 750 square feet) have univents that have filters that the univent is designed to fit, which would be a MERV 2 or 3 (depending on the actual square footage of the class). In larger spaces such as the gymnasium, library, auditorium, cafeteria the rooftop units are designed to hold a much larger capacity where we do have MERV 13 filters in. **We consulted with our architect and the recommendation was not to outfit our classrooms with MERV 13 (or industry equivalent) filters.**

In addition to the univents, all Roof Top Units (RTUs) are being cleaned and serviced at both the ceiling and roof level access points. Our contractor for our roof units is on call at any point for further review. All air conditioner units are also being inspected and cleaned with several filters being vacuumed / replaced and disinfected. It is important to note that AC units are also being checked for their ability to circulate in the outside air to help with increased ventilation.

Most importantly, we have learned that keeping windows open is a key aspect of air circulation. We have confirmed that all of our windows are fully operational. A building plan will be in place so that each window will be opened and closed at the appropriate time throughout each day.

In Oceanside we are most fortunate to have a Director of Facilities, Mr. Robert Schloth, who is completely on top of all of this. His expertise is invaluable to all of us and I am extremely confident that we are in great hands regarding the safety of our buildings.

Dr. Phyllis Harrington  
Superintendent



*Sailor Strong*