

OPEN your mind



TO THE PO

OES is a Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 day and boarding school located in Portland, Oregon between the Cascade Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

SSIBILITIES.

What are you OPEN to?

Find out. At Oregon Episcopal School, we put our students and their powerful curiosity at the center of the equation.

You won't just learn here.
You'll create. Explore.
Discover. And act.

GO WILD!

Our campus
is bordered
by natural
wetlands.



OPEN TO CREATIVE EXPLORATION

We believe in every student's infinite capacity for growth.

That's why, since 1869, our mission has been to stir the intellect, spark spiritual development, and challenge students to be good citizens of the world. How do we deliver on that mission? Through our **ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES.**



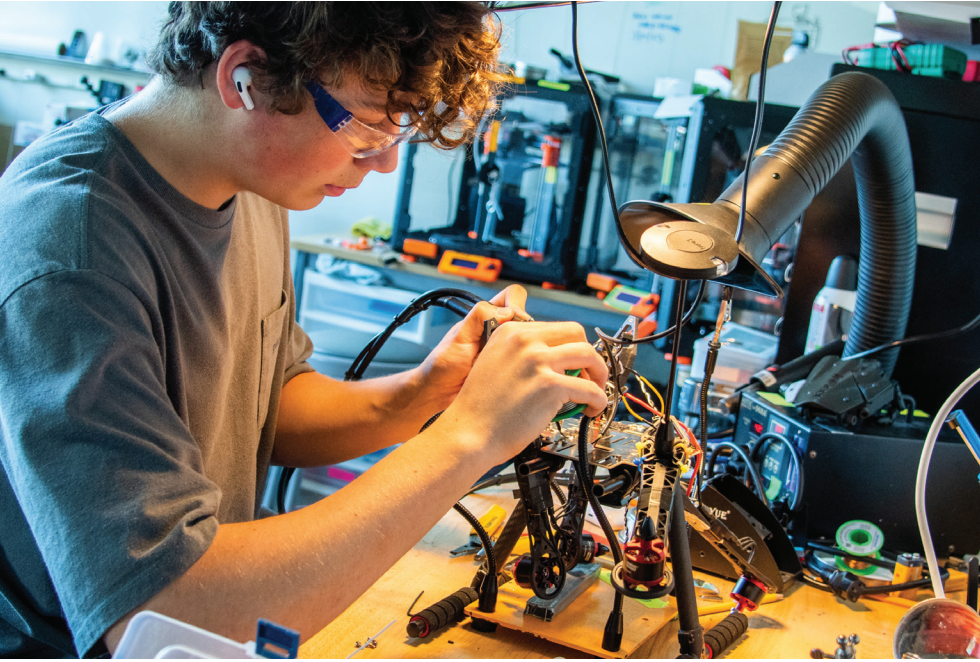
OUR ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES:

WE STRIVE TO DEVELOP FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY AND ABILITY TO:

- Cultivate** curiosity and creativity
- Construct** a strong foundation of knowledge and skills
- Design** and apply solutions
- Listen** actively and recognize perspectives beyond one's own
- Collaborate** to broaden and deepen understanding
- Express** ideas in multiple ways
- Build** resilience and respond constructively to challenges
- Take** responsibility for one's actions
- Value** diversity and uphold the dignity of all people
- Act** with courage and compassion for self and others

WHY WE EXIST: OUR MISSION

Oregon Episcopal School prepares students for higher education and lifelong learning by inspiring intellectual, physical, social, emotional, artistic, and spiritual growth so that they may realize their power for good as citizens of local and world communities.

**Inquiry-Based Learning**

At OES, learning from day one is active, not passive. Students don't just study science, they do it. They don't just read great writers, they write—and write, and write. They don't just listen to teachers, they ask questions. Each experience leads to the next one, always driven primarily by the passion and persistence of the students who act, in effect, as the architects of their own education.



Step into our EC3 Design Center and you'll see what we're talking about. EC3 is our collaborative space—home to a recording studio, media lab, 3D printers, a woodshop and more—where the OES community can explore and problem solve.

OPEN TO SPARKING CURIOSITY



Every day in the Lower School is an opportunity for learning that sticks.

What do we know? That real learning—the kind that connects with your mind and opens your heart to new possibilities—is triggered by curiosity. That's why our students don't just study topics, they experience them. Our teachers are their guides, inviting students to interact directly, and in meaningful ways, with the world around them. Third graders investigate untold stories of Portland's indigenous peoples. Fourth graders explore agriculture and civic history, then take their learning to the next level, becoming advocates for their community. Fifth graders study the historical and current global movement of people.



Conflict is natural. So is resolution.

When conflicts occur, we lead students through a restorative practice. Through conversation, they begin to understand their own motivations, the impact of their actions, and how to restore a sense of peace.



Which emotions show on a person's face? Those are the kinds of questions students consider during our weekly Lower School Strategy Workshop. Using an established wellness model, students learn to recognize, understand, and label their emotions, fostering self-awareness and empathy.



Even our youngest Aardvarks are encouraged to see themselves as change makers. In Lower School, they begin to learn how to wield their individual and collective power for good.

“Gaining new perspectives and understanding of what is being taught is incredibly valuable. At OES, we embrace inquiry, so we ask big questions and really get to know what other people think.”

-Alexander, Upper School Student

Open to a beautiful question. A question that can shift thinking and create change is at the very heart of our curriculum. Through asking and answering “beautiful questions,” OES students engage deeply with the subject matter and take an active, empowered role in their own education.

In small classes, the average size being just 16, students dig into subjects that are relevant, personal, and complex. Students engage in topics varying from sustainable design to the impact of narratives on our perception of history to how movement deepens our connection to wellness.

So ask questions. Then ask more. Because, in our book, the most powerful learning is always open ended.





"The community here is welcoming. Everyone knows how to treat someone right and everyone wants to treat you right."
- Camila, Middle School Student

Experiential Education is a core part of learning at OES. Specifically for Middle School, outdoor activities start in sixth grade with a three-day, off-campus adventure where students learn the Middle School Community Commitments, build an inclusive environment, and reflect on what they want from their Middle School experience.



OPEN TO THE POWER OF “YES”



Safely step outside your comfort zone.

It takes courage to try, and maybe fail, before you can succeed. That is an important lesson at any age, but especially in the middle school years. Our Middle School is a welcoming environment where students are empowered to explore new ideas, find their voices, take healthy risks, and discover who they are as learners.

Middle School students learn best when they are actively engaged in their learning. In seventh grade, students have the opportunity to conceptualize and design a product to solve a real-world issue. Students deep-dive into the inquiry cycle as they construct, test, and redesign multiple prototypes, leveraging their problem-solving and reflection skills along the way. Students culminate their work by marketing and pitching their unique product to a panel of teachers.

We cultivate a sense of belonging by getting to know every one of our students. Each Middle School student belongs to a small grade-specific group known as Advisory. Advisories meet daily, and are facilitated by Middle School faculty members who serve as compassionate and engaged mentors, guides, and advocates. Advisories instill a sense of belonging, as they give students an opportunity to make meaningful connections.

Every single day in our classrooms, students are taking intellectual risks because they feel safe and they feel known.



OES students are empowered to create a more **just and equitable world** as leaders and partners for change in our communities—both those that exist within the walls of our school and those outside.

Affinity Groups: By providing spaces where students can gather based on shared experiences, backgrounds, and identities, these groups create a supportive environment where individuals can connect, share, and celebrate their unique perspectives and common experiences. OES offers a variety of affinity groups for students and multiple affinity groups for parents as well.

Equity Coaching: Our equity coach supports faculty across the school in their efforts to make curriculum and instructional practices more culturally responsive and inclusive. This collaborative work includes reviewing units of study to include multiple perspectives, analyzing student engagement trends through an equity lens, and identifying and mitigating teacher bias.

DEI Coordinators: Each division at OES has teacher representatives who help enact a set of social justice standards. They work along side their colleagues and the Office of Equity & Inclusion to think through strategies and structures that can be used to implement these standards throughout the curriculum and teaching practices.

Restorative Practice: Restorative practices encompass a range of proactive and responsive strategies that prioritize building relationships, repairing harm, fostering a sense of accountability within a community, and promoting a positive and inclusive school culture. We often use Restorative Circles as a non-hierarchical environment for structured dialogue that facilitate open communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. This in turn promotes community building, understanding, and healing.





We aspire to guide students to deeply understand their relationship and responsibility to their broader communities. In adopting a

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

model, we view students and the community as equal partners, each with gifts and skills to share with one another.

As a Pre-K–12 school, we prioritize the process of learning over time. Students return to skills, conversations and invitations, each time at a new depth, as they more deeply understand themselves in the context of community.

Lower School: Students begin to build the skills of agency, advocacy, empathy, leadership, and problem solving. They identify issues in their communities where they would hope to see change.

Middle School: Students consider their capacity and agency to make change. They recognize issues in our community as connected to one another, and start to build a justice mindset by identifying the intersection between economic, social, intergenerational, and ecojustice.

Upper School: Students think more independently about what they have to offer. Students ask themselves, “How can I use my skills, knowledge, and passions to make a positive impact in my community?”

Seasons of Engagement: The school year is broken into three seasons of Community Engagement: the Season of Light, the Season of Action, and the Season of Commitment. By coming together school-wide in these shared seasons, students, faculty, and families can take collective steps toward justice. Each season provides opportunities for different styles of engagement, whether it’s through raising awareness, building relationships, taking direct action, or committing classroom learning to create an ongoing impact in the community.



WELCOME TO GATHER!

ALWAYS
SHARING
LISTENING
LEADING
RESPECTING
GROWING
BELONGING
GATHERING



What does it mean to be an Episcopal school?

Rooted in a rhythm of gathering and reflection, we educate toward a larger purpose—toward inclusion and respect, understanding and compassion, service and social justice, toward meaning and commitment beyond ourselves. We welcome, honor, celebrate and support families from all backgrounds, faiths, and traditions.

Creating community is key to our Episcopal tradition.

Gathering begins in Lower School, with teachers leading students in a celebration of community. By Middle and Upper School, Gathering is a student-led event where they collaborate on campus issues, discuss world events, and celebrate accomplishments. Chapel provides yet another opportunity to come together, explore different faiths, reflect, and learn. We intentionally create time in our schedule to gather, because we're all on this educational journey together. Gathering at OES is a lived expression of how much we support one another and respect both our similarities and our differences.

We share gatherings with our entire school community (parents, alumni, and employees) multiple times per year, including the Opening of School Belltower Ceremony, Winter Festival, and Mount Hood Climb Observance Day.

OPEN TO DISCOVERING SOLUTIONS



Inquiry and exploration deepen in Upper School.

Students continue developing eloquent and effective writing skills, whether they're drafting a research thesis, writing a one-act play, coming up with a scientific hypothesis, or completing a college application. And when it comes to advanced scientific research, they're fearless, regularly representing OES at competitive expos like the International Science and Engineering Fair.

We believe in responsive learning for an ever-changing world. To that end, we've done our utmost since 1869 to inspire students to be open to every challenge, every day.



Students are empowered leaders who actively contribute to creating positive change within our community. They play a vital role in shaping our curriculum by providing input on course offerings. Additionally, they take on responsibilities as club leaders and members of the student government, exerting their autonomy to shape the Upper School environment according to their vision.

Making a world of difference. OES students devote hundreds of hours serving and learning around the world, from Head Start, to Habitat ReStore, to the Kiholo Bay Turtle Sanctuary in Hawaii.

Exploring a Winterim Course: Winterim offers a diverse range of immersive courses in various locations in Oregon, across the United States, and around the world.

Students and faculty work together to develop classes that could take them anywhere, from practicing conversational French in Martinique, to studying art markets in New York, to practicing climate activism through art in Portland. Winterim is an opportunity for students to follow their passions, learn new skills, and work with others in unique situations.



**WHERE
WILL YOU FIND OUR
UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS?**
Places like Cambodia, Cuba,
China, France, and Guatemala.
Winterim leads students on
academic and Community
Engagement adventures
around the globe.



“On our Costa Rica Winterim, the location made the experience memorable, but it was the people on the trip who made it truly magical. The trip leaders helped us build incredible connections and friendships within our group.”

– Seth and Flynn, Upper School Students



OPEN TO NEW PERSPECTIVES

“One of the most beautiful moments happens when our students from different countries come together to share their perspectives, their lives, and their cultures. That often happens in the kitchen. We all love to gather around food, so when pizza is being made or ramen is being tested for spice levels and we are all laughing and speaking in different languages, it’s a really beautiful coming together of so many different countries and cultures and people.”

-Faculty Dorm Parent





Home away from home. Our boarding program begins in ninth grade and attracts students from around the world. The community is led by an incredibly caring group of faculty dorm parents who ensure that students are supported.

Our Residential Life Program welcomes students from around the United States and from all over the world.

Whether discussing macroeconomics with a roommate from Thailand, working on a community engagement project with a friend from Jamaica, or executing soccer drills with a peer from Japan, our students are continually learning with—and from—one another.

Our boarding students are a core part of our campus community. They contribute to all aspects of life at OES. They are often leaders in clubs, members of student government, and participants in athletics and the arts. Each student fills our campus with global and diverse perspectives that enrich every aspect of our school. Our entire community benefits from the presence of our boarders.



Backyard Exchange Program: The OES Residential Program extends the opportunity to all OES Upper School day students to spend up to two weeks each year in the dorms at no charge. The Backyard Exchange program enhances and fosters strong connections among boarding and day students, as well as their families. Backyard Exchange facilitates lasting friendships, as evidenced by OES families generously welcoming boarding students into their homes during school holidays when the dormitories are not available.

OPEN TO PLAYING THE GAME



SINCE 2005,
THE
AARDVARKS
HAVE
BROUGHT
HOME:

49

STATE INDIVIDUAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

55

STATE TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIPS

69

DISTRICT TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIPS

69

DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Physical activity is part of our educational philosophy. For our youngest Aardvarks, that means joyful play combined with mindfulness and motor skills development. For older students, it might mean varsity athletics—and going all the way to the state championships. In between, there are countless opportunities to gain self-confidence and leadership skills. The best part? Every child who wants to play, gets to play. **Our no-cut policy guarantees it.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS: soccer, cross country, volleyball, basketball, track, lacrosse, tennis, and fencing

UPPER SCHOOL SPORTS: soccer, cross country, volleyball, basketball, ski racing, track, lacrosse, golf, tennis, and fencing



85%
OF STUDENTS PLAY AT
LEAST ONE SPORT

76
ATHLETIC
TEAMS



BAM! The Basketball and Mindfulness program (BAM!) is a Lower School favorite. BAM! integrates OES's mindfulness curriculum with building coordinated basketball skills.



DISCOVER YOUR INNER ARTIST

Students have the opportunity to embrace their sense of wonder and creative imagination as they build a refined artistic skill set with which to express their ideas.

Students have access to a wide variety of individual and collaborative artistic mediums and spaces. They utilize practices such as visual, literary, performing, music, multimedia, and design to follow their passions and synthesize their learning.

In the Arts at OES, students discover and explore their creative process, refine their craft, investigate art history and culture, and connect their authentic voices with their community.



“OES prepared me for graduation by giving me that little jump from high school to college. The college-prep classes prepared me academically, but I also learned about building relationships with my teachers and classmates. The only thing I wasn’t prepared for was to leave OES because I want to hold onto the school and the people I’ve met here.”

– Zaira '23, OES Alumna



Underpinning our approach to college counseling is a desire to have students make the most of their high school experience in a healthy, balanced manner. Students lead the process, learning to reflect on their needs, investigate and evaluate options, and represent themselves effectively. Wherever they go, our alumni build the kinds of futures only open minds can imagine.

Amherst College	Harvard College	Smith College
Babson College	Howard University	Stanford University
Bates College	Johns Hopkins University	Swarthmore College
Boston University	Loyola Marymount University	Syracuse University
Brandeis University	Macalester College	Tufts University
Brown University	Maryland Institute College of Art	Tulane University
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	McGill University	University of California, Berkeley
Carnegie Mellon University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of California, Los Angeles
Carleton College	Middlebury College	University of Chicago
Case Western Reserve University	New York University	University of Colorado, Boulder
Chapman University	Northeastern University	University of Denver
Claremont McKenna College	Northwestern University	University of Michigan
Colorado College	Occidental College	University of Oregon
Columbia University	Oregon State University	University of San Diego
Cornell University	Pitzer College	University of Toronto
Emory University	Pomona College	University of Washington
Georgetown University	Princeton University	Wellesley College
Gonzaga University	Purdue University	Yale University
Grinnell College	Rhode Island School of Design	
Hamilton College	Santa Clara University	



AN OPEN INVITATION

We could tell you a million great facts about OES, but nothing beats firsthand experience.

Visit OES, tour the campus, engage with students and faculty, and discover if OES is right for your child and your family.

CONTINUE EXPLORING

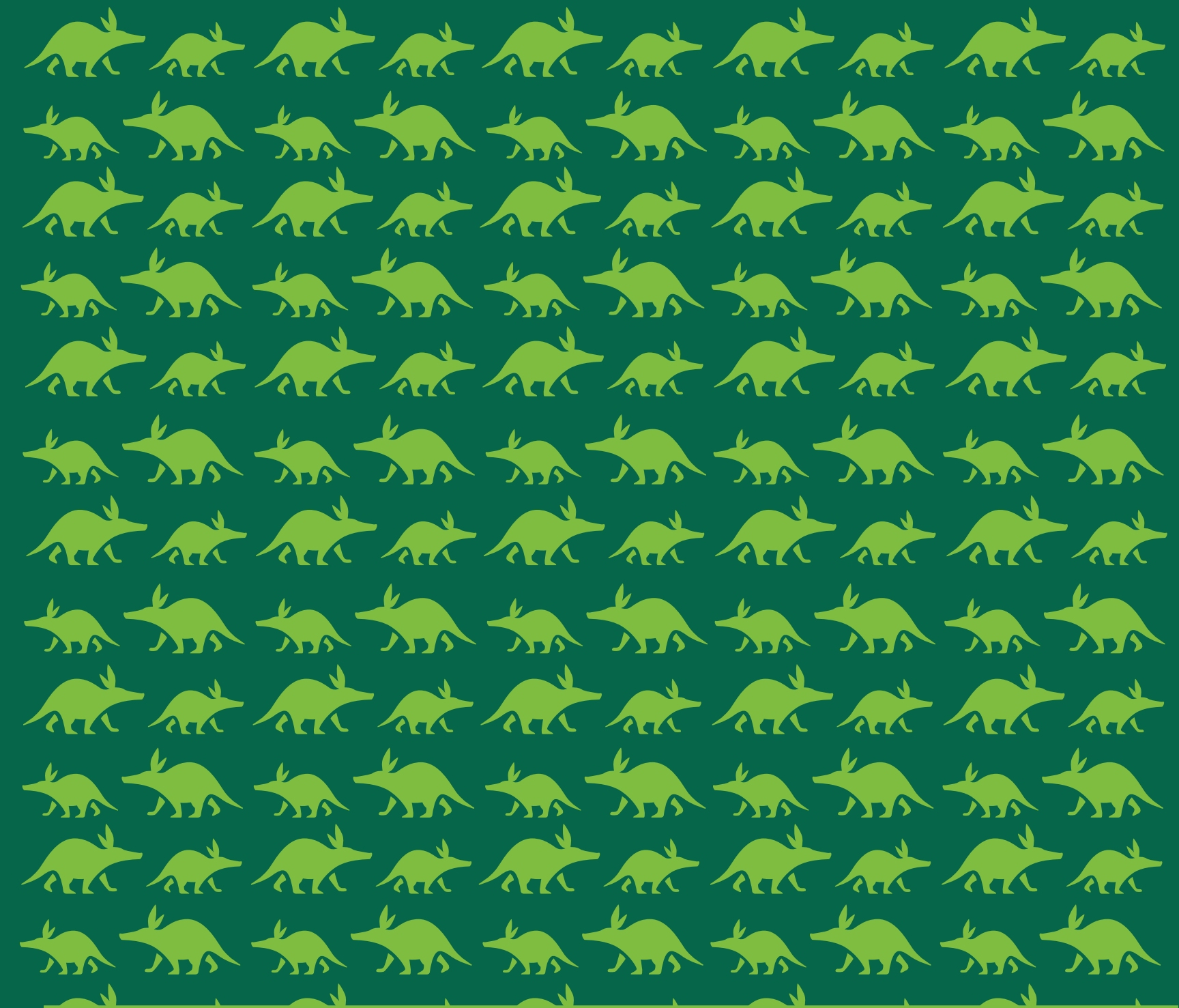
Visit our website to learn about upcoming admissions events and sign up for a campus tour at oes.edu/explore

QUESTIONS?

Contact the OES Admissions Office at **503-768-3115** or admit@oes.edu.

READY TO APPLY?

You'll find information in the pocket and step-by-step instructions at oes.edu/apply



A young person wearing a blue helmet, a black long-sleeved shirt, black shorts, and a safety harness is climbing a rope structure. They are holding onto a rope with their right hand and reaching out with their left. The background is a dense forest of tall trees with green leaves.

FOUNDED: 1869

LOCATION:

15 minutes from downtown Portland and 90 minutes from the Cascade Mountains and the Oregon coast

WHO WE ARE:

Independent,
day and boarding

CAMPUS:

59 wooded acres with nature trails, ropes course, gardens, greenhouse, two wetland areas, and multiple indoor and outdoor athletic facilities

GRADES:

Pre-K to Grade 12

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT:

875 students, including 60 boarding students from the United States and around the world

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO: 7:1

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 16-18

FLEXIBLE TUITION:

22 percent of our students receive financial assistance

GRADUATES:

99 percent attend four-year colleges

ACCREDITATION:

Northwest Association of Independent Schools

MASCOT: Aardvark

OES Oregon
Episcopal
School

Learn
more at
oes.edu