

CHARGER CONNECTION



Volume 3 , No. 1

August 25, 2023

ALL IN, EVERYONE WINS!!

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year OCVS Chargers

Inside This Edition: Celebrating Unity and Success with 'All In, Everyone Wins'

Discover how our school community's collective efforts are creating an environment where collaboration, support, and teamwork lead to victories for every student. From inspiring stories to innovative initiatives, join us in exploring the incredible outcomes that happen when we all come together for a common goal. Be sure to read the Reflection of the Principal from Mrs.

Gurley, and meet our fabulous Leads who support both teachers and students each day! Get ready to be inspired and motivated by the power of **'All In, Everyone Wins'!**

CHARGERS



"Embrace the new school year with open minds and eager hearts, for each day is a chance to learn, grow, and make lasting memories."

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CHARGERS



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@ocvschargers

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Greetings Charger Families,

Welcome back to **Orange County Virtual School**, where we believe that every student has the potential to achieve greatness.

First and foremost, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and families joining our school community. We are thrilled to have you as part of our family, and we can't wait to get to know each and every one of you. You bring fresh perspectives, diverse talents, and unique stories that will enrich our school culture.

To our returning students and families, welcome back! I trust that your summer break has been restful and rejuvenating, and you are ready to dive into new adventures and opportunities that await you this academic year. I'm incredibly proud of the progress you've made and the resilience you've shown during these challenging times. Your determination and perseverance inspire us all.

As we begin this new chapter, I want to assure you that the well-being and success of our students remain our utmost priority. We have taken diligent steps to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for everyone. Our dedicated faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to prepare engaging and dynamic learning experiences that will ignite your curiosity and fuel your passion for knowledge.

Throughout this school year, we will continue to foster a culture of inclusivity, where each student feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive. We will celebrate your achievements, embrace your individuality, and provide ample opportunities for personal growth and development. Together, we will create an atmosphere where everyone feels respected, encouraged to take risks, and inspired to reach new heights.

I encourage you to make the most of the resources and opportunities available to you at OCVS. Engage in meaningful discussions, collaborate with your peers, and seek guidance from our dedicated educators who are here to guide and inspire you. Remember, education is a journey, and success comes not only from the destination but also from the experiences and lessons learned along the way.

In closing, let us embark on this new school year with optimism and determination. Together, we will overcome any obstacles that come our way and make this year an unforgettable one. I am confident that, with your unwavering commitment and our collective efforts, we will achieve greatness and make OCVS shine brighter than ever before.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you and creating cherished memories together. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of our staff if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share.

Here's to an amazing year ahead!

Virtually Yours!

Mrs. Brandi Gurley



UPCOMING EVENTS & INFO



2024 SENIOR OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024
OCVS CAMPUS
5:30-6:30 PM

OPEN HOUSE TOPICS

- Graduation Information
- Senior Dues
- Senior Activities
- Testing Requirements
- Test Prep Opportunities
- College and Career Opportunities
- OCVS Clubs

CHARGERS



ORANGE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL

OPEN House

Come on Campus September 21st

Address
4000 Silver Star Road
Orlando, FL 32808

Call to Find out More

407-317-3327

9-12
5-7pm

k-8
4-6pm

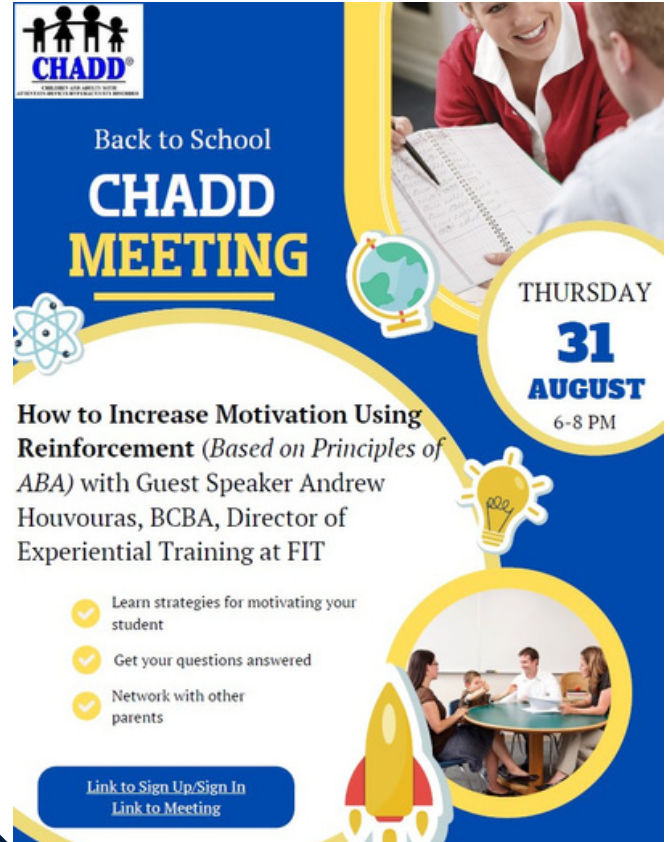
ocvs.ocps.net



S.A.C.
School Advisory Council

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in joining SAC, please contact **Manal Sohel** at manal.sohel@ocps.net. More information regarding our first meeting is coming soon!



CHADD

Back to School
CHADD MEETING

THURSDAY
31 AUGUST
6-8 PM

How to Increase Motivation Using Reinforcement *(Based on Principles of ABA)* with Guest Speaker Andrew Houvouras, BCBA, Director of Experiential Training at FIT

- Learn strategies for motivating your student
- Get your questions answered
- Network with other parents

[Link to Sign Up/Sign In](#)
[Link to Meeting](#)

TESTING

GETTING STARTED

The Testing Department has been working hard to ensure that you are provided with all the information you will need in regard to district and state testing. To access information regarding district and state testing, please visit our **OCVS Website** at www.ocvs.ocps.net Families can click on “Students” and then “Testing Info” to access everything you need for testing this year.

Just like last year, some assessments can be completed from home while others require your child to come on campus. This year, state testing that is completed on campus will be at the OCVS campus and **not** your child’s home-zoned school. (The only testing that might take place at a home zone school would be testing in May)

The OCVS Campus is located at 4000 Silver Star Road, Orlando, FL 32808.

We look forward to working with you this year to ensure a smooth testing experience!

You can contact us anytime if you have any testing questions. We are here to help!



CONTACT US

Heather Bielski
K-8th Testing Coordinator
heather.bielski@ocps.net

Emily Pageau
9th-12th Testing Coordinator
emily.pageau@ocps.net

Questions for the testing team? Email:
OCVSTesting@ocps.net



TECHNOLOGY

TECH UPDATES

All full-time OCVS students are eligible to receive a district-issued device. Devices are brand-new Dell touchscreens with a case that must be kept on the device to protect it. The device checkout schedule is posted on our school website at

<http://ocvs.ocps.net/technology>

Limited or poor WIFI or internet access? OCPS students may request a “hotspot” for wifi access at <http://ocvs.ocps.net/technology>. These devices are available from a partnership with Tmobile through the EmpowerED program. After a device request is made when a hotspot is received you will be emailed to pick it up.

Acceptable Use Policy: All students need to sign the AUP and reset their OCPS credentials. If a student has already picked up a school device this year the process was already completed and does not need to be done again. The process is located on the technology page of the website at

<http://ocvs.ocps.net/technology>

CONTACT US

Please visit

https://ocvs.ocps.net/media_center for information regarding devices.

Donna Dalton

Assistant Principal
donna.dalton@ocps.net

Phillip Sardin

Technology Support Representative
phillip.sardin@ocps.net



STUDENTS: DO YOU KNOW HOW TO CHECK YOUR OCPS EMAIL??

Your OCPS email is the email that is your OCPS student id number such as 480XXXXXXX@students.ocps.net which the school uses to communicate important information such as testing information. To check your OCPS email go to **Google Drive** from **Launchpad** and then click on the dots next to your profile. This will display the GMAIL icon, which will be your student email.

Click on the link to watch a “How To” video for help.

<https://ocps.instructuremedia.com/embed/9ef5e84a-db1f-45f3-ad53-219ae7af387b>

Do you know the difference between FLVS email and OCPS email? FLVS email is on the FLVS platform. The email link is at the top of the screen inside of VSA on FLVS. It is what is used most frequently by our teachers to communicate with students.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

Greetings to the 2023-24 academic session! The Elementary School Counselors are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with you and establish a connection over the course of this year. Should you require assistance or have any inquiries, feel free to reach out via the contact details provided - whether it be through a phone call, text message, or email.

CONTACT US

Matt Ireland, School Counselor
K-5 Last Names A-L
Matthew.Ireland@ocps.net
407-502-3585



Katie Ballard, School Counselor
K-5 Last Names M-Z
Katherine.Ballard@ocps.net
407-391-5896



MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! Your Middle School Counselors are eager to work with you and get to know you this year! If you ever need assistance or have any questions, please call, text or email at the information below!

CONTACT US

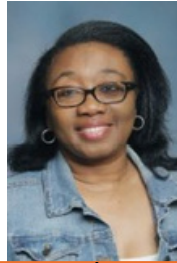
Heather Alexander,
School Counselor
6-8 Last Names A-L
Heather.Coleman@ocps.net
321-306-6585



Jane Mills, School Counselor
6-8 Last Names M-Z
Jane.Mills@ocps.net
407-553-2106



HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE



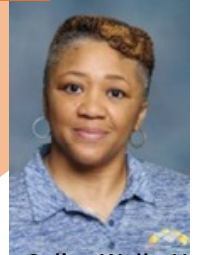
Mrs. Kecia Croom
(A-D)



Mrs. Pamela Thompson
(M-Rn)



Mrs. Edwige Stephens
(E-L)



Mrs. Selina Wells-Harris
(Ro-Z)

Welcome back! Be sure to join your class **REMIND** group to receive information and announcements. Also, please be mindful of your **grace period**. Once the grace period has expired, there will be **NO MORE** schedule changes.

Join 'Remind' to Receive Important OCVS Updates

TEXT YOUR CODE TO 81010

12th Grade - @ocvs24

11th Grade - @ocvs25

10th Grade - @ocvs26

9th Grade - @ocvs27



SENIORS, be on the lookout for a link from your counselor to schedule your senior check meeting! These meetings will take place throughout the month of September. Also, plan to join us for an event planned just for YOU! **Senior Open House- Sept. 6th @ 5:30 PM** on the OCVS Campus

Please reach out to your counselor if you have any questions.

ESE DEPARTMENT

We would like to welcome you back for the 2023-2024 school year! Should you need any assistance or have questions regarding ESE services, please reach out to us.

CONTACT US

Jennifer Eubanks, Assistant Principal
jennifer.eubanks@ocps.net

Jamie Tice, Staffing Specialist
ESE K-5 and Gifted K-12
jamie.tice@ocps.net
321-306-6510



Ismary Guzman Cano, ESE Support K-5
Social Skills, Part time
ismary.guzmancano@ocps.net
321-306-6396
LIVE Lessons
K-5, Social Skills, Mondays - 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.



Yvonne Martin, ESE Support K-5 ELA/MATH
yvonne.martin@ocps.net
321-236-8520
LIVE Lessons
K-2 & 5, ELA, Mondays- 1:00 p.m.
K-2 & 5, MATH, Mondays- 2:00 p.m.
5th MATH, Tuesdays - 2:00 p.m.
3-5 ELA, Fridays - 10:00 a.m.
3-5 MATH, Fridays- 11:00 a.m.



Kathleen Jackson, Gifted K-5 and 9-12
kathleen.jackson@ocps.net
407- 439-0299
LIVE Lessons - Mondays
Gifted K-2 - 10:45 a.m.
Gifted 3-5 - 11: 30 a.m.



[Click here to see the Secondary Live ESE Schedule](#)

CONTACT US

Carrie Kroepflin, Staffing Specialist
ESE 6-12
carolyn.voll@ocps.net
407-588-9232



Penny Epifano, ESE Resource
Learning Strategies 9-12
Unique Skills ELA 9-12
Social Skills 9-12
penelope.epifano@ocps.net
321-326-5341



Bebe Schlechte, ESE Resource
Learning Strategies 6-8
Unique Skills ELA 6-8
Social Skills 6-8
mary.schlechte@ocps.net
321-248-5122



Jodi Keyek, ESE Resource
Unique Skills MATH 6-12
jodi.keyek@ocps.net
321-410-8660



Stephanie Leisher, Gifted 6-8
stephanie.leisher@ocps.net
321- 236-8124



Vianny Gordon
Speech Language Pathologist K - 12
Vianny.Gordon@ocps.net



ESOL DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

The ELL Resource Team is excited for another great school year at OCVS. We are here to support the ELL students and families to insure success in the virtual classroom.

Mrs. Ramos and Mrs. Davitt provide support in many ways. We translate for meetings with OCVS personnel in Spanish and Portuguese. Mrs. Ramos ensures that all students are receiving the services required and placed in the correct courses. She also monitors ELL testing and holds ELL Committee meetings to discuss student placement and progress.

Mrs. Davitt offers Study Hall to any LY or LF student who would like additional support. Students who are currently in ESOL or who have exited within the past two years qualify for Study Hall. Please contact Mrs. Davitt if your student is interested. Mrs. Davitt supports Mrs. Ramos with testing and meetings as needed and requested.

The OCVS ELL Resource Team has resources available to students such as; anchor charts, word to word translating dictionaries, and books. Parents of English Language Learners, please come on **Mondays from 10am to 2pm** to Room 39 at **OCVS, 4000 Silver Star Road** to pick up these great resources! Ask for Mrs. Ramos or Mrs. Davitt.

Please contact the appropriate team member below with any questions.

**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH**
Sept. 15 - Oct. 15



Ms. Donna Dalton
Assistant Principal

Phone: 407-553-2117
donna.dalton@ocps.net



Ms. Madeline Cruz
OCVS 7006
Edgenuity Support
Ph. 321-306-6399
madeline.cruz@ocps.net
Late night: Thursday



Ms. Maria Davila
OCVS 7006
Edgenuity Support
Ph. 321-306-6557
davilam2@ocps.net
Late night: Thursday



Ms. Diane Davitt
OCVS 7001 & 7004
K-12th Grade
(Spanish & Portuguese)
Study Hall
Imagine Learning
Ph. 407-990-1863
diane.davitt@ocps.net
Late night: Monday
On Campus: M/Tu/F



Ms. Ana Ramos
OCVS 7001 & 7004
Compliance Specialist
Ph. 407-801-4776
ana.ramos@ocps.net
Late night: Wednesday
On Campus: M/Th/F



COACHES CORNER

ELA

Greetings from the OCVS Reading Coaches/ Interventionists! We are so excited to kick off another chargerific school year with you all! We continue to work hard combing through data to ensure we do everything in our power to best support the needs of our fantastic students! As the year progresses, we will be providing some great tips and tricks when it comes to reading comprehension and strategies, so be sure to check it out within each Charger Connection!

Meanwhile, we are getting ready to begin our Fun Friday **Book Bites Sessions**, to which all are invited! These sessions are wonderful opportunities to enjoy your favorite lunch or snack while reading for what it's truly meant to be - FUN! More information about Book Bites will be coming from your ELA teacher soon. Within the invite, you will receive the live link to the grade-specific Reading Coach. Let's bring the magic back in reading! We hope to see you there!

CONTACT US - MATH COACHES

Mrs. Fresia Urdaneta

Grades K-4

321.307.9098

fresia.urdaneta@ocps.net



Mrs. Tabitha Lum

Grades 5-8

407.553.2265

TLum1@orange.flvs.net



Mrs. Celita Williams

Algebra 1 and HS Test Prep

321.234.5693

celita.mitchell@ocps.net



Mrs. Jill Barnes

All HS Math except Algebra 1

321.236.4931

kimberly.barnes@ocps.net



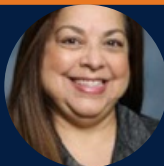
CONTACT US - READING COACHES

Ms. Carol Gorbea-Lorenzo

Grades K-3

321-306-6563

carol.gorbea-lorenzo@ocps.net



Mrs. Marie Owens

Grades 4-8

321-236-8267

marie.owens@ocps.net



Mrs. Alexandra Sainte

Grades 9-12

407-801-4371

alexandra.sainte@ocps.net



MATH

Greetings from the OCVS Math Coaches/ Interventionists!

In future issues of the Charger Connection, we will share tips and tricks for improving your problem-solving skills.

Meanwhile, we are getting ready to begin our Fun Friday **Math Game and Tutoring Sessions**, to which all are invited! These sessions are wonderful opportunities to enjoy your favorite lunch or snack while having some FUN with Math and accomplishing your goals.



CLUBS



Chargers, be on the lookout! Our **2023-2024 OCVS Club Catalog** is coming out soon! We have clubs at all levels (elementary, middle and high school) that OCVS students are welcomed to join. When published, the catalog will be available to view when students log into courses, on our school website and an upcoming issue of the Charger Connection. Sponsors for each club will be available at our Open House on Sept. 21st. Please be sure to stop by their table.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

At Orange County Virtual School, membership in the National Junior Honor Society is **invitation-only**. NJHS membership recognizes the excellence of our 6th - 8th grade students. Are you interested in joining our chapter? The first step is making sure you are qualified. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and add your name to the interest list for this school year.

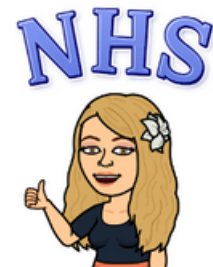


OCVS CHESS CLUB

We are excited to announce our first monthly meeting for the OCVS Elementary Chess Club on **Thursday, September 7th at 3:00 PM**. Please join us at the [link](#) provided. All OCVS Elementary students of all skill levels are welcome to join!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

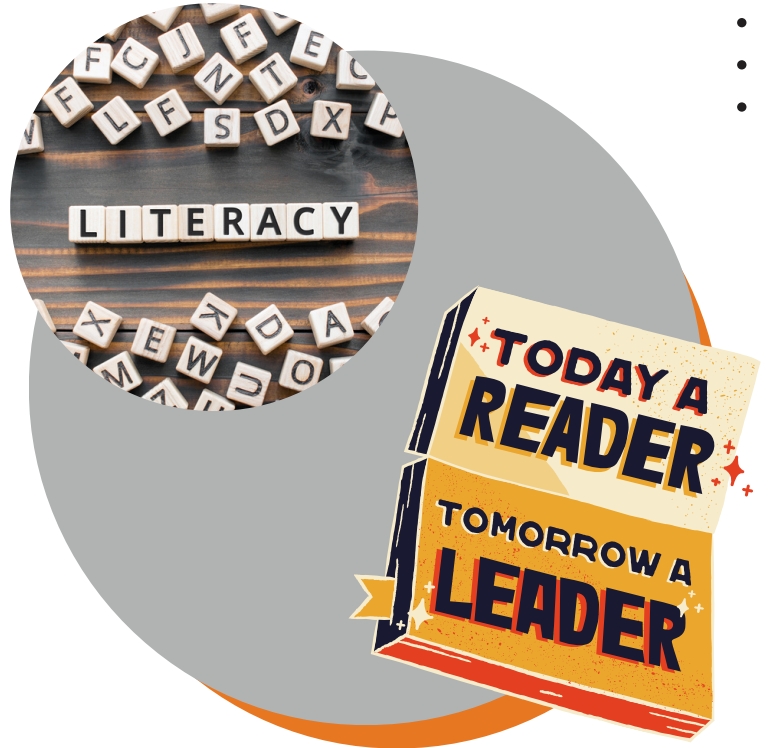
At Orange County Virtual School, membership in the National Honor Society is **invitation-only**. NHS membership recognizes the excellence of our 10th-12th grade students. Are you interested in joining our chapter? The first step is making sure you are qualified. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and add your name to the interest list for this school year.



LITERACY COMMITTEE

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back, Chargers! It's another great start to a brand new school year with OCVS! Keep a lookout here for updates about all the exciting things that will be happening through the Literacy Committee, including Book Fairs! We will also take time to learn about, honor, and celebrate some of the most influential figures and moments in our history! We look forward to another amazing year with you!



Chargers, the Book Fair is BACK!
Please be sure to stop by and
shop at the Book Fair during
Open House, Sept. 21st.

CONTACT US

Literacy Committee

MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS

- September** - Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15 - Oct 15
- October** - Global Diversity Awareness Month
- October** - Polish American Heritage Month
- November** - National Native American Heritage Month
- November** - National Family Caregivers Month
- February** - Black History Month
- March** - Women's History Month
- March** - National Irish American Heritage Month
- April** - National Arab American Heritage Month
- May** - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- May** - Jewish American Heritage Month
- June** - Caribbean American Heritage Month
- June** - Immigrant Heritage Month

S.A.F.E. CORNER

S.A.F.E. SPACE

Welcome Back Chargers! I'm looking forward to a great school year! My name is **Jenna Faber** and it's my honor to serve as your **SAFE Coordinator**. "SAFE" is an acronym that stands for "Student Assistance and Family Empowerment" but you can just think of me as exactly what it sounds like...I'm a safe place you can turn to when you need to talk to someone or need support with your mental and emotional well-being. To schedule an appointment with me, you can click on the pinwheel icon located on your teachers' announcement pages which will lead you to my SAFE Space. From there, you can click on my Calendly scheduler to select a date and time for an appointment. Or, simply feel free to **email me at Jenna.Faber@ocps.net** or **text me at (321) 234-4791**. I am here to be someone you can count on. Don't ever hesitate to reach out!

To locate my Calendly scheduler, my contact information, and SAFE community resources, click on the pinwheel icon from your teachers' announcement pages to be taken to my SAFE Space:

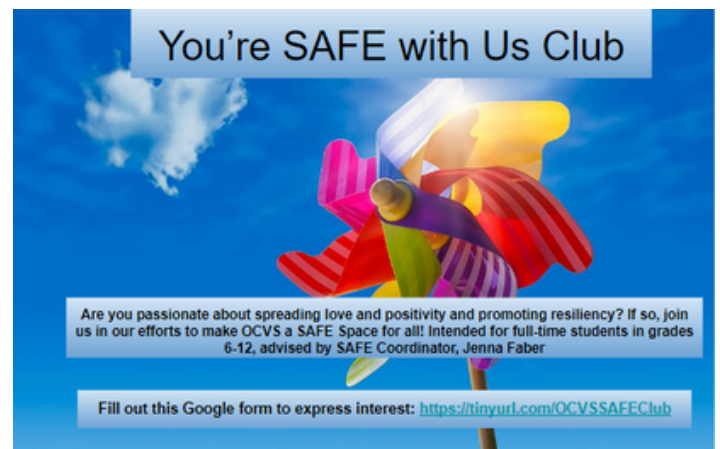


COMING SOON

Resiliency Day, September 12, 2023, focusing on self-management and self-awareness. We look forward to celebrating together!



You're SAFE with Us Club intended for grades 6-12. More info coming in September and at Open House! So stay tuned!



CONTACT US

Jenna Faber
SAFE Coordinator
Jenna.Faber@ocps.net
321-234-4791



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

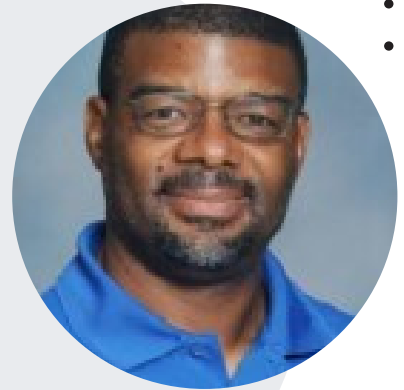
Chargers, here are some members of our Leadership Team here at OCVS. Know that we are here to support you!



TONJA SPARKS
ACADEMIC DEAN



MANAL SOHEL
ELEMENTARY LEAD



ERVIN ALEXANDER
MIDDLE SCHOOL LEAD



NICOLE GARBIRAS
ELECTIVES LEAD 6-12



LAYNIE FOSKETT
EDGENUITY LEAD



RENÉE LOHR
ELA, MATH, SCIENCE 9-12
LEAD



ANNE WALSH
SOCIAL STUDIES, WORLD
LANGUAGES 9-12 LEAD



SHAE JONES
VIRTUAL LEARNING LAB
SPECIALIST

PARTNERS IN ED



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-
-
-

Thank you to the following sponsors for supporting OCVS!

Tom.Hunt@optavise.com



Build relationships between businesses/ organizations and schools that enhance student learning and provide students with even more opportunities for success.

Own a business that would benefit from supporting OCVS?

Sign up here:

https://ocps.samaritan.com/custom/503/volunteer_home

-
-
-
-

CONTACT US

Laynie Foscett

Laynie.Foscett@ocps.net

Megan Tousignant

Megan.Tousignant@ocps.net