



August 25, 2022

Dear Ocean Academy families, **Welcome Back!**

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning and emotional wellbeing.

New Staff

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome George Vasilakis to our amazing team of Paraprofessionals. He has impressive experience as a Mental Health Responder in the Robert Wood Johnson healthcare system. James Stephens is retired from a 27-year career with the Division of Parole and will serve as Ocean Academy's Security Guard. Heather Popielarczyk will teach our middle grades self-contained class. Heather founded the Adventures in Art and Super Sensory Science for students with special needs for Lacey Township Recreation. Helen Tobia comes to us with 20 years of experience as a teacher and instructional leader for the Lakewood Board of Education and Coastal Academy, she will be serving as our math teacher.

Facilities Update

Last year's district-wide safety and security review generated a recommendation that additional surveillance cameras be added to our schools to better monitor school activity. Installation of interior and exterior cameras will be completed to enhance our ability to record who is on our campus at all times. A security officer is a wonderful addition to our OA family.

Student Placement

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2022-2023 school year. Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. We have implemented a successful READ180 program in all grade levels, this program assesses student progress on an individual basis.

ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. OA is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life.

Warmest Regards,

Georgianna Lane-Hansen
Principal