

Greetings OSA Special Education Families,

We kindly welcome you all to the 19-20 school year! Our Special Education team is committed to providing exceptional support services for each of our students and has been working tirelessly to ensure the 19-20 school year is filled with success. We would like to introduce our fabulous SpEd team and provide an extra warm welcome to our newest members.

After two successful years as a prominent member of the OSA Special Education team **Paul Callis** will be stepping into the role of **Special Education Lead**. Paul has 11 years experience in special education in Oakland and will also be continuing his role as the **Middle School Case Manager**.

Dr. Erica Wandner has joined us as our on-site **School Psychologist**. Erica will be conducting the psychological assessments for initial and triennial reviews and provide regular psych services for a small caseload of students. She brings a wealth of experience in both public school and private practice and we are fortunate to have her full time on site at OSA.

Laura Aranda has joined the team as our **9th and 12th Grade Case Manager**. With over 20 years experience in special education in district, charter, and private schools throughout Oakland we consider ourselves very fortunate to welcome Laura to the team.

David Padula will be returning to OSA for his 2nd year and working as our **10th and 11th Grade Case Manager**. This is designed specifically so he can loop with the 9th and 10th grade students he worked with last year to provide consistency in the student experience.

Maya Levine will be returning to OSA in her 7th year as our on site **Mental Health Specialist**. When Maya originally joined us part time through a contract with Seneca she quickly became an invaluable member of the team. When the opportunity arose, we did not hesitate to bring her aboard as part of our OSA team and Maya has continued to serve as an integral support to our students.

All 3 of our **Instructional Assistants** will be returning to OSA and will continue providing exceptional push-in and pull-out services for select students. The continuity that **Cachet Berger, Denmark Gatewood**, and **Cassandra Freeman** will provide in building on the already established relationships with our students is a great asset to this department.

Vicky Siegel will continue her work as our **Speech Pathologist**. Vicky has a long history of working with OSA students and is highly valued by our community.

With the recent departure of Dr. Christian Patz as our Director of Special Education, the team will now be reporting to our Principal, Mike Oz. As we work to fill this position we are receiving consultation services through our SELPA to ensure that our program is operating smoothly, effectively and in full legal compliance. If you have questions please feel free to reach out to Mr. Oz at moz@oakarts.org.

Thanks,
Special Education Department
Oakland School for the Arts