



ORANGE COUNTY HEAD START, INC.

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www.ochsinc.org

September 4, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you and your family members safe and well. As Orange County comes off of the COVID-19 watch list and transitions into the next phase of opening schools, in full or in part, I am excited to announce that Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) is also ready to begin serving children at our centers.

Due to State mandates, OCHS will only be able to serve a limited number of children onsite. Depending on the age of the children, the State of California will only allow us to serve between 8 – 12 children in a classroom at this time. With regular class sizes of 8 and 10, all Early Head Start (EHS) children (0-3 year olds) enrolled in center base, full-day services will be able to attend onsite classes. Unfortunately, this limited class size requirement will significantly reduce the number Head Start children (3-5 year olds) we will be able to serve onsite. In order for OCHS to meet the State’s class size requirement in Head Start classrooms, we have had to create a priority system based on designated criteria. First, only Head Start children currently qualified for, and enrolled in, full-day will have the opportunity to attend onsite classes at this time. In addition to that criteria, additional designated criteria, including parent preference, has been used to determine which of the full-day children will be selected for onsite classes and which will receive virtual classes at this time. Finally, because of the limited size classes and space constraints, all Head Start part-day children will be receiving virtual classes three (3) times per week until we can bring all Head Start children back into our classrooms.

Your child’s teacher and/or Center Director/Site Supervisor (CD/SS) will be calling to inform you of whether your child will be able to attend onsite or virtual classes to begin the school year. Prior to receiving either, your child’s teacher(s) will also need to conduct a Virtual Orientation with you. Parents of children scheduled to receive onsite services will also need to come in to the center for an Onsite Orientation. Your child’s teacher will be calling you to schedule your orientation(s). It is extremely important that you take the time to do these orientations as we cannot begin teaching your children virtually or onsite without conducting the orientation(s).

We sincerely wish we could bring all of the children back onsite at this time and are hopeful that we will be able to soon. In the meantime, here are some important dates for you to keep in mind:

Early Head Start

Date	Activity/Task/Event
Beginning 9/2/2020	Virtual Orientations Begin for Parents of All Center Base EHS Children
Beginning the Week of 9/1/2020	EHS Home Base Children - Virtual Home Visits Begin for All Families
The Week of 9/14 – 9/21, 2020	On Site Orientations (EHS Full-Day Families Attending Onsite classes only)
On 9/22/2020	First Day of School for EHS Children Coming to School for Onsite Classes

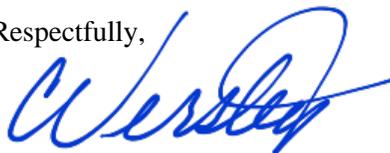
Head Start

Date	Activity/Task/Event
Beginning 9/2/2020	Virtual Orientations Begin for All Parents of Center Base HS Part-Day and Full-Day Children
Beginning the Week of 9/8/2020	HS Home Base Children - Virtual Home Visits Begin For All Families
The Week of 9/14 – 9/21, 2020	On Site Orientations (HS Full-Day Families Attending Onsite classes only)
Beginning 9/21/2020	Virtual Classes Begin for Part and Full-Day Children That Are Not Able to Attend Onsite Classes At This Time
On 9/22/2020	First Day of School for HS Children Coming to School for Onsite Classes

OCHS has been, and will continue to, follow State and Federal health and safety recommendations for child care and school settings. We have always had strong health and safety procedures in place, and have increased them even further in response to the pandemic. With your help, we will be able to keep your child, you, and our staff as safe as possible. When you attend your Onsite Orientation, whether that be in the next two weeks or later, we will show you all of the measures we are taking to keep our children, families, and employees safe, and our centers clean and sanitized. If you have any questions related to onsite or virtual classes and services, please call your Center Director/Site Supervisor at any time!

We look forward to beginning our school year and can't wait to see you and your child(ren)! Until then, stay well and let us know what we can do to help your family!

Respectfully,



Colleen Versteeg
Executive Director