Oak Grove School

Information
1993-1994

220 W. Lomita Ave.
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-8236
Fax: (805) 646-6509

** Note: The following text will appear in a new brochure now in production.*

100% Recycled Paper

"Surely a school is a place where one learns about the totality, the wholeness of life. Academic excellence is absolutely necessary, but a school includes much more than that. It is a place where both the teacher and the taught explore not only the outer world, the world of knowledge, but also their own thinking, their behavior."

- J. Krishnamurti, The Intent of Oak Grove School

As we approach the Twenty-first Century, it is clear that the world will present increasingly complex moral, intellectual, and physical challenges to our children. Oak Grove School aspires to educate children who will be prepared to meet these challenges; children who will recognize that learning never ends, and who will grow up to contribute thoughtfully and compassionately to their families, communities, and world.

Oak Grove School aims to equip students with the skills necessary to function with intelligence and sanity in modern society, doing so in an atmosphere which encourages each child to discover for him or herself what is true. The school is committed to educating each student by integrating academic excellence, environmental awareness, and a realistic understanding of self and others. Consistent with the views of Jiddu Krishnamurti, the school's founder, Oak Grove does not subscribe to any creed or ideology. Rather, it helps students to investigate enduring human issues with originality and an open-minded spirit.

THE HISTORY OF OAK GROVE SCHOOL

Oak Grove School was founded in 1975 by Jiddu Krishnamurti and the Trustees of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America. Oak Grove, along with its sister schools in England and India, is a place where intelligence is nurtured and encouraged to flower. Here students, staff, and parents explore together what it means to learn and to live in relationship with each other and the world.

Krishnamurti dedicated his life to exploring the problems of humanity through dialogue with others. Born in 1895 in a small village in India, Krishnamurti was adopted at age fourteen by Annie Besant, President of the Theosophical Society. Convinced that Krishnamurti was destined to be a great spiritual teacher, Mrs. Besant founded international organizations to support his work and followers. In 1929, Krishnamurti disbanded these organizations, stating, *"Truth is a pathless land, and you cannot approach it by any path whatsoever, by any religion, by any sect."* From this time until his death in 1986, Krishnamurti dedicated his life to investigating the human condition. He spoke to audiences worldwide and wrote over fifty books.

Education was of paramount importance to Krishnamurti. He believed that if a young person can learn to be aware of conditioning and beliefs concerning prejudice, nationality, religion, race, and tradition, then he or she may become a fully intelligent human being for whom right action will follow.

It was out of this concern for education that Krishnamurti founded Oak Grove School. The original enrollment was three young students, taught by two staff. As the younger students and enrollment grew, upper grades were added, resulting in the construction of the middle school complex in 1977 and culminating in the addition of the High School and Boarding Facility in 1984. To accommodate the needs of working parents, before and after-school child care programs were recently established. Today nearly 200 students and 40 staff members learn together in an atmosphere of physical and psychological safety nourished by mutual respect and concern.

THE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

Students at Oak Grove School learn readily about their relationship to the natural world. This world greets them each morning as they walk to class past flower and vegetable gardens. It protects them as they eat lunch under the shade of native oaks. It inspires them as they play a rousing game of soccer on a field framed by the mountains of the Los Padres National Forest.

Oak Grove School is located on 150 acres of oak-covered hills in the beautiful Ojai Valley, ninety miles north of Los Angeles and fifteen miles east of Ventura. The buildings have been designed to complement the natural surroundings. Students take an active part in the maintenance of buildings, gardens, and grounds, making an important contribution to the unique atmosphere of the campus.

Sensitivity is a quality which can be cultivated and developed. By spending their school days in a natural environment full of beauty, Oak Grove students learn to respond with sensitivity to the world around them.

THE OAK GROVE STAFF

The faculty of Oak Grove School is dedicated to providing an educational environment in which students feel free to raise and investigate any issue, whether academic, personal, or philosophical. Teachers promote this active inquiry, and encourage students to explore questions and problems both individually and cooperatively. In this atmosphere, children are not afraid to take risks, and learn from their successes as well as their mistakes.

Experienced, credentialed teachers, many with advanced degrees in their specialties, form the backbone of the Oak Grove staff. Diverse in background and life experience, the staff is unified by each teacher's commitment to the educational intent of the school.

This commitment forms the basis for a sense of staff cohesion, strength, and purpose. These qualities are developed at weekly staff meetings in which a broad range of educational issues, from the practical to the philosophical, are explored in a supportive and consensus-driven format. In this atmosphere, teachers investigate their own psychological conditioning and thus learn together with their students what it means to have a mind that is intelligent and without conflict.

PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Young children delight in the discovery of relationship beyond the boundaries of family. Children in the Oak Grove School Pre-School and Kindergarten classes, nourished by a secure and affectionate atmosphere, begin to reach out to others and explore the world around them.

The Pre-School classroom has an enrollment of up to twenty children, closely guided by a teacher and an aide. Projects specific to each child's development are designed to foster intellectual, creative, and emotional growth. The students spend their school day in activities which include art, story-telling, creative movement, music, and cooking. Cooperative and individual learning tasks teach readiness skills for later academic work. Through sharing and working with their classmates, they learn to understand and appreciate human diversity. Outdoor activities, including gardening, campus walks, and nature studies, develop a comfortable and respectful attitude towards the natural world.

Foundations for learning are emphasized in the Kindergarten class. Individual attention from the teacher and aide permits each student to learn at his or her own pace, which instills a sense of confidence and self-worth. Basic skills in reading, writing, and numbers form the foundation upon which future academic proficiency will be built. A solid relationship between the Kindergarten and Elementary school curriculum ensures program continuity and makes for a smooth transition from the Kindergarten to the Elementary School.

ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Oak Grove School endeavors to bring about a love of learning in a non-competitive environment. In this atmosphere, students develop self-reliance and learn to cooperate and share responsibility for their cognitive, creative, and emotional development.

The Elementary School is divided into six homeroom groups, each averaging fourteen students. The homeroom teacher instructs math, science, language arts, and social studies. Homeroom class work is supplemented by specialist instruction in art, instrumental and vocal music, drama and play production, horticulture, computer and science labs, library skills, physical education, Spanish, and woodworking. Small class sizes allow teachers to respond to each student's emotional and academic needs, and to closely monitor student progress and well-being. Comprehensive semi-annual written student evaluations are complemented by parent-teacher conferences and monthly parent meetings. School assemblies held several times weekly may consist of class performances in drama, music, or dance, or a discussion led by a teacher or guest speaker. The assemblies teach students presentation and listening skills, and encourage a sense of community. Community spirit is further developed through field trips, drama productions, games, and service projects.

At the Junior High level, the journey from child to adult intensifies. Issues of emerging adolescence are investigated and discussed in an atmosphere of understanding and trust. As in the Elementary School, Junior High homeroom teachers focus on science, social studies, math, and English, complemented by specialist instruction. Outdoor skills are acquired through camping trips taken throughout California, the Southwest, and Mexico.

Because its strong academic program is complemented by teachers who are sensitive to and experienced with the awakening of adolescence, the Junior High graduates students who will enter High School intellectually prepared, emotionally stable, and friendly and respectful towards others.

HIGH SCHOOL

High school is a time of dramatic discovery - a time of emotional, physical, and intellectual demands. The aim of Oak Grove High School is to guide students through this challenging period by providing a rigorous and engaging college preparatory program while striving to develop in each student a self-reflective capacity which leads to inner honesty, independence, and integrity.

The modern 13,000 square foot High School is a complex of classrooms, laboratories, and library, situated in tranquil surroundings. Classes average fifteen students, which encourages close relationship between teachers and students, and promotes in-depth examination of academic issues. The small size of the school gives everyone who wishes the opportunity to participate in a broad variety of activities, from drama productions to interscholastic sports.

Written evaluations and letter grades monitor progress, but students are not measured against each other. A staff advisor closely follows the growth of each student and assists with intellectual, academic and personal concerns. A traditional college preparatory curriculum is balanced by instruction in the arts, physical education and sports, and community service. Understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity is encouraged through classroom work, fieldtrips, and day-to-day relationships among the international blend of students.

Travel, an important component of the High School program, enhances studies in history, geography, social studies, and foreign languages. Classes have journeyed throughout the Western United States, to New York City, Mexico, China, India, and Europe. Students take two extended field trips per year. High school students become familiar with their local environment through weekend backpacking trips into the spectacular Los Padres National forest.

Oak Grove graduates have been accepted at all University of California campuses and many well-respected private colleges. Just as importantly, the High School graduates young adults capable of looking at life clearly and sanely, and of making intelligent decisions concerning their place in the world.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

MATHEMATICS
*Algebra I & II
*Geometry
Math Analysis
Advanced Topics
Calculus
AP Calculus
Computer Science

SCIENCE
*Anatomy & Physiology
*Biology
*Chemistry
Physics

LANGUAGES
French I-IV
Spanish I-IV
AP Spanish
Japanese
* (Two years required of one foriegn language.)

SOCIAL STUDIES
*World Geography
*World History
*American History
Economics
The American Southwest
Japanese History
Chinese
Organization of Culture
Works in Depth

*English I-IV
*Community Service
*Human relationship

ARTS
Studio Art
Photography
Ceramics
Computer Art
Yearbook
Music
Drama

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
*Physical Education I-IV
Yoga
Interscholastic Sports:
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Volleyball

* Required Courses

Oak Grove High School is a member of the California Interscholastic Federation, and participates in an interscholastic soccer, tennis, basketball, and volleyball schedule with other Southern California private schools.

BOARDING PROGRAM

At Besant House, the challenge of community living is met on a daily basis. The cultural and national diversity of the residents encourages an awareness and appreciation of differences, and contributes to an atmosphere where friendship and respect are valued over competition and contention. Up to twenty students and four houseparents live together in a family atmosphere, on a quiet edge of the Oak Grove campus. The houseparents provide caring support and guidance for the students, who range in age from twelve to eighteen.

Besant House residents take personal responsibility for their social behavior and academic obligations. They maintain their rooms, do their laundry and have daily and weekly house chores. Weekly house meetings facilitate communication and help build sound relationships.

Healthy vegetarian food is a basic component of life at Besant House, as is daily mandatory study and quiet time. Television, which contributes to passivity and hinders the development of equanimity, is not a part of life at Besant House, although there is a video monitor for weekend movie viewing. The village of Meiners Oaks is within walking distance, and downtown Ojai is a short bike or trolley ride away.

On weekends, Besant House residents help prepare the evening meals, sharing recipes from around the world. For recreation, they hike, horseback ride, play sports, camp, go to the beach, or attend cultural events in Ojai, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles. The international blend of students makes Besant House a rich and exciting place to live and learn.

ESL PROGRAM

A major emphasis at Oak Grove School is communication in its broadest and deepest sense. In order to facilitate trans-cultural communication, Oak Grove accepts students of all nationalities, with varying levels of proficiency in English. On a practical level, this policy has led to the development of an English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the school.

The primary goal of the ESL program is to give students competence in spoken and written English, enabling them to freely express their ideas and feelings in the school and the greater community. In addition, the program teaches more sophisticated skills in the art of reading, writing and English grammar in preparation for academic coursework at the post-secondary level. Students from Japan, Korea, Brazil, France, Mexico, and Spain have successfully completed the ESL requirements at Oak Grove.

Finally, the ESL program facilitates communication between students of vastly different cultures and encourages the development of friendly relationships between students of diverse backgrounds. It encourages students to look into their cultural backgrounds and discover how culture affects their thoughts, feelings and perceptions of the world.

PARENTS

Parents choose to enroll their children in Oak Grove School because of their interest in its educational philosophy and academic program. The staff, recognizing the important role Oak Grove plays in the lives of its families, values the close participation of parents in the school community. Parents take part in school activities, fundraising, after-school enrichment classes, homeroom and all-school meetings, and conferences. This high level of parent involvement creates security and continuity between home and school. In addition, many parents discover that participation in school events results in the development of new interests and friendships which extend beyond the campus, and into the life of the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND POLICIES

The Krishnamurti Foundation of American, a charitable trust, is the legal entity responsible for the school's direction, well-being, and financial stability. Oak Grove School has two Directors, one responsible for the High School Program and one for the Elementary and Junior High. The School Board, composed of Foundation Trustees, School Directors, and Parent Representatives, meets regularly to supervise functioning of the school. The Parent Steering Committee, composed of two parent volunteers from each homeroom in the school, plans educational, fundraising, and social events. It also serves as a forum for parent concerns and as a liaison between the School Board, Oak Grove Parent Association, and the homerooms.

Out of a feeling of affection and respect for animals and in conformance with the wishes of the school's founder, Oak Grove School is a vegetarian campus. Food on school-related outings and field trips off campus is also expected to be vegetarian.

Oak Grove School is a non-profit independent school registered with the State of California. It is accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools. The school is licensed by the State of California to provide child day care (License #561701471).

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

The process for admission to Oak Grove School includes submission of a completed admissions application with student evaluations from two current teachers, and official transcripts. An interview with the student and parents is followed by a classroom visitation of three to seven days, depending on grade level. In addition, High School students are required to submit scores from the Secondary School Admission Test. For placement purposes, applicants to the English as a Second Language program are required to submit scores form the Test of English as a Second Language. For further information, contact the Admissions Office, Oak Grove School, 220 West Lomita Avenue, Ojai, California, 93023; phone 805 646-8236, FAX 805 646-6509.

FINANCIAL AID

Oak Grove School is a member of the School Scholarship Service in Princeton, New Jersey, which assists the School Directors in determining eligibility for financial aid. Each family applying for financial aid submits a "Parent's Confidential Statement" and processing fee directly to the Scholarship Service. Results are returned to Oak Grove and included in the evaluation for financial assistance.

POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Oak Grove School is authorized under Federal Law to enroll non-immigrant alien students. The school does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national or ethnic origin or any non-disqualifying handicap in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. This policy of non-discrimination covers school programs and activities, including but not limited to academic admissions, financial aid, educational services, and employment.

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Oak Grove School
of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America
220 S. Lomita
Ojai CA 93023
Phone 805 646-8236
FAX 805 646-6509
Printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper
Cover photography by Timothy Teague

Tuition 1993-94

Group A1 Preschool				
Part time	MWF	(9:00-12:00)		$2250
Half time	MWF	(9:00-2:00)	or M-F (9:00-12:00)	3500
Full time	M-F	(9:00-2:00)		4700
Group A2 Kindergarten		(9:00-2:00)		4700
Group B Complex	(grades 1-2)		(8:00-2:00)	4700
Groups C, D, E,G	(grades 3-6)		(8:00-3:15)	5850
Group JH	(grades 7-8)		(8:00-3:15)	6250
High School	(grades 9-12)		(8:00-3:45)	7300
Boarding				8000
ESL (English as a Second Language)				3475

Miscellaneous Fees

Activity Fee;	A-B $200; C-G $250; JH $275; High School $325
High School book fee	$300
Boarding (Ages 12-18)	$325 fee for activities;$300 on account for incidentals
ESL Student Travel Funds	$1000
Parent Association Dues	$ 20
Accident Insurance	$ 20

Scholarship Procedure

Oak Grove School is a member of the School Scholarship Service in Princeton, New Jersey, which assists us in determining scholarship eligibility. Each family applying for financial aid submits a "Parents Confidential Statement" and $14.00 processing fee directly to the Scholarship Service. Results will be returned to the school and included in the evaluation for scholarship awards.

Educational Program

For purposes of instruction, the elementary-middle school children are grouped according to general level of development (cognitive, emotional, social), with a ratio of 12-15 students per teacher. The homeroom teacher is responsible for instruction in basic academic areas, as well as for overseeing the child's total relationship to the school. Specialist teachers offer courses in art, music, physical education, wood shop, drama, ceramics, yoga and ecology.

The academic program in the elementary school, ages six through thirteen, aims for mastery of basic literacy skills, and competency in all mathematics, including algebra for advanced students. Students also engage in comprehensive studies of the physical, biological and social worlds they inhabit. Please see separate brochure for information on the High School.

For Further Information

Write Oak Grove School, 220 W. Lomita Ave., Ojai, CA 93023 or call (805) 646-8866.

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OAK GROVE SCHOOL *of the*
Krishnamurti Foundation of America
220 West Lomita Ave.
OJAI, California 93023
(805) 646-8236

Date Application Received .....
Fee Received .....

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Student's name .....
Last First Middle Nick Name

Age ..... Date of Birth ..... Sex .....

Nationality ..... Height ..... Weight .....

Applying for grade ..... for the academic year of 19 ..... – 19 .....
as a boarding ☐ or as a day student ☐ (check one)

Student's home address: .....

Father's name ..... home phone .....
(or legal guardian)
Home address .....

Occupation/title ..... Employer .....

Employer's address ..... bus. phone .....

Mother's name ..... home phone .....
(or legal guardian)
Home address .....

Occupation/title ..... Employer .....

Employer's address ..... bus. phone .....

Significant Others ....
Step-mother Step-father

Student lives with ..... and how many brothers ..... sisters .....

Name of person with financial responsibility for the student .....

Their billing address if different from above .....

Have you visited the OAK GROVE SCHOOL campus? ..... If yes, when? .....

Please tell us how you heard about the school. .....

Present School **Address** **Phone**

1. ....

Reason for leaving ..... Dates attended .....

Previous Schools

2. ....

Reason for leaving ..... Dates attended .....

3. ....

Reason for leaving ..... Dates attended .....

Has the student ever been dismissed or suspended from a school? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, provide details .....

.....

.....

Please explain any emotional, academic or physical conditions which may require any special treatment or consideration at OAK GROVE SCHOOL.....

.....

Please check to indicate whether the applicant has had any of the following:

Speech Therapy ☐ Hearing Exam ☐ Tutoring ☐ Visual Exam ☐

Psychological evaluation or therapy ☐ Educational Testing ☐

Would you authorize the release of these results and/or testing scores to the OAK GROVE SCHOOL?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the student receiving medical treatment or medication regularly? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide details. .....

.....

Please describe the student's social relationships. .....

.....

.....

Please describe the participation in hobbies or other extra-curricular activities. .....

.....

.....

Parent/Guardian — Please use this space (and the back if necessary) to write about your interest in the type of educational environment which OAK GROVE SCHOOL provides:

Applicant's Photograph
(with family)

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We ask all students of grades 7 - 12 to assist our evaluation by writing an essay answer to questions #1, #2 and two additional questions of your choice. Please carefully consider your responses and answer in some depth (in hand-writing and attach them to this application form).

1. Describe the reasons why you would like to attend the OAK GROVE SCHOOL.
2. In what ways do you feel you could contribute to the environment here at OAK GROVE?
3. How do you spend your free time?
4. In what school subjects are you most interested?
5. Name a world issue which concerns you and discuss how you feel it could be dealt with.
6. Write about what you hope to learn at OAK GROVE.
7. Describe an interesting day you have experienced.

Additional question for all applicants to the Boarding Program:

8. Have you ever spent long periods of time away from home without your family? If you have, describe the details of your experience. If not, describe your apprehensions, expectations, outlook, etc. concerning the prospect of your being a boarding student.

Our Admissions Secretary will contact you regarding the next step in the admissions process.

I hereby make application for the Day Program ☐ or the Boarding Program ☐

for the 19 ..... – 19 ..... school year at OAK GROVE SCHOOL.

I understand that for the processing of this application to begin, it must be accompanied by a $35 non-refundable application fee.

....

date of application *signature of parent or guardian of applicant*

Send to: OAK GROVE SCHOOL; Admissions Secretary; 220 West Lomita Ave.; Ojai, CA 93023

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