

## OUR SISTERS' SCHOOL

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October 2020



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Courageous Girls  
Grow Here.







*“I learned that even though  
we’re a little bit apart, we  
have to stick together more  
than ever.”*

Rayn '21

The beginning of last school year seems like a lifetime ago, when the world was still on its axis and full of promise.

The pandemic brought unforeseeable challenges to our community, our teachers, staff and—most of all—our students and their families. We draw inspiration from the brave seafaring women for whom our school is named, and together with courage and perseverance, we face the shifting winds and storms of our time.

Meeting the Moment: This year we aim to maintain a sense of humanity and foster a community of care while nurturing our students’ critical consciousness—analysis, agency, action—as well as freedom to be their authentic selves within and beyond life at OSS.





IRENE LUPERON '11 ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL '15;  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA '20

Irene is a graduate of the very first OSS Class of 2011, and will finish her master's degree in Global Medicine later this year at the University of Southern California. She hopes to attend medical school, and have a career in serving high-risk communities. Irene's family is from the Dominican Republic, and she yearns to return there and also work in other countries around the world that are in need and medically underserved. Recalling her time at OSS, she says, *"Not only did it provide so many opportunities, it also taught me important skills, like the discipline to study, how to research, public speaking, and how to advocate for myself."*



LYLA TAVARES '20, WESTOVER SCHOOL '24  
NADIA TAVARES '17, WESTOVER SCHOOL '21  
MAYA TAVARES '14, BISHOP STANG SCHOOL '18;  
UMASS DARTMOUTH '22

The Tavares sisters are so alike in their views and sophisticated understanding of the world around them, yet so different in their styles and demeanor. Maya's innate sense of caring brought her to study nursing, while Nadia learned to push her comfort zone as OSS helped her find the courage she didn't know she had. *"I've been in love with OSS since I was four years old,"* Lyla says, *"but my teachers helped me find my own path, and be my own person."* They say in turn of their OSS experiences, *"impactful," "empowering,"* and *"magical."*





THANIA MARTINEZ '17 PHILLIPS ACADEMY  
ANDOVER '21

At Andover, Thania is a student leader and the editor of the school's feminist magazine. *"I've always been interested in science and medicine, but now I'm wondering...maybe science journalism might be my path."*

As a senior this year, she is ready to launch, and OSS has been an integral part of her journey. *"OSS motivated me,"* says Thania, *"and made me open to my future."* It is the whole OSS community that makes the difference. *"Teachers really care about us, and they are so open-minded—and so I learned how to be open-minded, too. I learned patience there, how to apply it, and how to navigate in the world."*



MARLOWE TAVARES '17 DANA HALL SCHOOL '21

As a senior at Dana Hall, Marlowe has an eye on what's next for her. *"I'm a singer. I'd like to continue music studies, and perhaps go into the music industry."* As an elementary school student, she knew OSS was in her future: her sister Jaienne graduated in the very first Class of 2011, and her mother Angie was an OSS teacher who joined the Board of Trustees in 2020. *"It took me a year to really find my place,"* Marlowe says. *"I was very energetic, but I didn't like sports or lots of things most of the other kids liked. What OSS taught me is to have a positive mindset—whatever life throws at me, I can overcome it."*



*“At its heart, OSS is about developing girls’ expectations about what they can do and who they can be.”*

Russ Weigel, OSS trustee  
& former Head of School,  
Loomis Chaffee





## WE ARE OSS.

We value the power and resilience of each community member, and will continue to care for one another as we always have.

We are committed to equity and social justice education.

We stand in solidarity with the racial justice movement—we believe Black lives matter.

We engage in meaningful, purposeful and joyful learning.

We plant, harvest and connect.

We encourage creativity, offer choices, and provide tools for learning—at school and at home.

We are educating girls. We are moving forward together.







SARIAH HYACINTH '16 BISHOP STANG SCHOOL '20;  
SPELMAN COLLEGE '24

OLIMPIA ANDRADE '16 GREATER NEW BEDFORD  
REG. VOC-TECH HIGH SCHOOL '20; SPELMAN COLLEGE '24

Olimpia and Sariah are both enrolled at Spelman, the historically black liberal arts college for women. Olimpia remembers *“I had a negative attitude when I started OSS. But there is an intimate focus on you, people to fall back on, and love and support. I became open to change.”* Now a confident student who understands the power of positivity, she is involved in her local NAACP chapter, and is interested in studying politics and social change. Sariah plans to major in health sciences with an eye towards a career as a surgeon. Her advice for incoming OSS girls, *“Be ready to experience so many great things—the amount that the teachers care is incredible. OSS became home, and you will be a Sister Sailor for the rest of your life.”*



ALANI ALMEIDA '20 EAGLE ROCK SCHOOL '24

Alani is the captain of her own ship, figuratively and literally. She was introduced to sailing at the age of five...and by seven was allowed to sail alone. Now she shares her love of sailing by teaching others. Alani was aware of OSS from an early age as her sister, Alayjah '17 (Bishop Stang School '21), was an OSS student. *“You get a vibe when you walk into OSS every day,”* she says. *“This school gives you tools to grow with. I would like to write my college essay on the tools I learned at OSS, because of how much they have impacted me. They have helped me adjust to every environment I’m put in.”* Alani’s connection to the School has grown even stronger. *“If you need some help opening a door, they are always there to help you. My favorite saying that I’ve learned from years at OSS is ‘Step up, step back.’ It means knowing how to be part of the community, and when to listen.”*



## IMPACT

Since 2008, OSS has been empowering our courageous girls with an extraordinary education. We provide our students with a safe and enriching environment to explore ideas, learn from their failures and successes, and gain confidence in their emerging selves.

YOUR generosity and kindness make this possible. YOU help us to create a joyful and powerful learning experience. OSS is tuition-free and unlike charter schools, we are ineligible for state funding—so we depend on you to help our students grow, discover their potential and pursue their dreams.

With your help, we will continue on this voyage together to make our world a better place.

