

2020 Report from LEYM Liaison to Olney School

Olney had a good but challenging year. The school started off with thirty five students, fourteen of those from outside the United States. A new class was offered in Agricultural Sciences using the farm, greenhouse and vegetable garden as laboratories. Sustainability and Stewardship continue to play an important role at the school, taught in classes and practiced everyday at Olney.

In March classes were interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and all schools closed in Ohio. Fourteen international students were unable to return home and stayed on campus complying with the Covid-19 restrictions. Learning continued via computer and old-fashioned methods such as US mail and the telephone. All thirty five students finished the year. The school anticipates next falls enrollment to be higher than this year's, despite the pandemic's expected negative impact on enrollment. Olney is planning for students to return to campus in the fall, keeping up-to-date with guidelines from the state of Ohio for residential schools.

Olney successfully held graduation and alumni meeting via zoom. In both cases, more people were able to participate and it is likely they will be using video conferencing in the future for these events. Class reunions were also conducted via zoom and we're quite successful.

The school is in a stronger financial position than it's been in years. The annual fund reached its goal of \$300,000 and that is good news for Olney.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellerie Brownfain
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