

OLNEY SCHOOL Report

Olney started the year with twenty six students and the possibility of two more coming this current semester. This is down approximately ten students from last year. The school was anticipating a higher enrollment for the 2021 year but the Covid 19 pandemic has negatively impacted enrollment. Fall enrollment is expected for 30 students. In spite of its smaller size Olney is truly a global campus with students from China, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa. The school continues to follow the Covid-19 protocols from the State of Ohio for residential schools. Fortunately the campus is large, which includes the three hundred and fifty acre organic farm, and students have many opportunities for classes and activities in the outdoors, when weather permits.

In the fall Homecoming was virtual and well-attended. The traditional Olney Distance Run was held with sponsorships and self-reporting times. The school initiated a virtual Guest Speaker program to bring in some knowledge and entertainment from outside. Many speakers -- and virtual guests -- came from our community of alumni. We plan to continue and develop that program in the coming year. Other traditionally public events also took place virtually, including Gym-Ex, Commencement, a Silent Auction, and Class Reunions. The Friday night alumni meeting was also held virtually and was well attended.

The school has continued to shrink their projected budget deficit each year. In fact this year they are operating on a budget that projected no deficits. This is before that pandemic and assumed the same annual fund amount as the last three years. Covid 19 has had a negative impact on both admissions and donations.

Donations to Olney continue to be welcomed, as well. Our Annual Fund goal for 2021-2022 remains at \$300,000, as in the last five years. Every gift to the Annual Fund effectively funds scholarships to Olney students receiving financial aid.

I encourage all F/friends to refer potential students to the school and to consider financial gifts to Olney.

Submitted by Ellerie Brownfain