



OSPREY WILDS • CHARTER SCHOOL DIVISION

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The authorizing mission of Osprey Wilds is to ensure quality academic and environmental literacy outcomes for Minnesota students through effective charter school authorizing.

June 29, 2021

Board of Directors
Cinda Jensen, Board Chair
Crosslake Community School
35808 County Road 66
Crosslake, MN 56442

Re: OW Site Visit Follow-Up

Dear School Leadership Team and Ms. Jensen,

Thank you for hosting me during my virtual site visit to CCS. I was so thankful I was able to observe and connect with many different people and aspects within the school community. My primary focus for the site visit was to converse about the school's progress toward academic growth, the leadership transition, and most importantly, understand how covid-19 / pandemic have impacted your community.

The information we gather from our visits helps inform OW's Academic, Environmental Education, Financial, and Operations Performance Evaluations, and ultimately the Renewal Performance Evaluation and charter renewal. Observations below are aligned to OW's performance evaluation frameworks, which can be found at our [website](#).

Operations Indicator Area 1: Education Program

1.1 Mission & Vision: Does the school demonstrate fidelity to the mission and vision outlined in the contract?

- **Impacts of the Pandemic.** Teachers expressed an understanding around certain misconceptions about the impacts of the pandemic on students. Whether families ended up losing jobs or students were suddenly home more often, there were now new emotional aspects that impacted the success of students.
- **Interim Leadership.** With the leadership transition, school staff mentioned the three interim leaders have jumped right into the job with poise and humility. With respect to the unknowns, the entire school has also taken on a collective effort in helping drive the school forward in a time of uncertainty. OW looks forward to continued progress supporting increased internal capacity for school leadership along with a clearly identified school structure embodied by the school's mission and vision.

- **Positives of the pandemic.** Teachers and school leadership referenced how the school has focused on the tenants of relationship building and freedom to experiment. Since the pandemic didn't come with a playbook, teachers felt supported in their ability to be very creative and flexible with their lesson planning. One of the bigger transitions for the school was migrating their powerpoints to a virtual setting, which allowed teachers the opportunity to catalogue and collaborate with all the resources.

1.2 Instruction & Assessment: Does the school implement instructional and assessment programming that focuses on student achievement?

- **Teacher Training / Evaluation.** At the beginning of the visit, school leadership and teachers mentioned how peer observations were continuing to take place, while administrative observations were less frequent. Additionally, teachers were still working through what emerging competencies should be included when discussing student growth in relation to distance learning.
- **Environmental Education.** CCS has worked to combine journaling, mindfulness, and art when discussing environmental sustainability. One of the current projects for students was to research the salt content of a local lake. Students have been gaining a global perspective around how the decisions they make continually impact the planet.

1.6 Parent & Student Satisfaction: Are parents and students satisfied with the school's educational program?

- **Student Reflections.** Students indicated that CCS is a school filled with teachers who accommodate for a variety of learning levels and styles. Teachers support student learning by preparing students to engage in their own self-motivation / self-discipline. Students reflected that CCS has pushed their understanding of how to interact with people who are fundamentally different, based on the small size of the school. As a result of the pandemic, students shared that covid or mainly distance learning took a toll on their education. During the interview, students expressed that group work was much harder to complete effectively, given how difficult it was to hold all members accountable. As far as potential additions to the school, students would appreciate adding back in Spanish class along with more opportunities for sports and extracurricular activities.

Thank you again for hosting Osprey Wilds' most recent site visit. Please let me know right away if there are questions or areas of clarification needed on any of this feedback. We appreciate the work your team is doing to continue to empower and inspire the young people from your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JE' with a stylized flourish.

James Ewer
Authorizing Specialist, Osprey Wilds Charter School Division

cc: Erin E. Anderson, Director of Charter School Authorizing