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*The Ocean Studies Charter Learning Process and Philosophy*

One basic idea of the Ocean Studies Charter philosophy is that carried, unseen with each child, is the person the student will become. To develop to the fullest physical, spiritual, and intellectual potential, the student must have freedom-achieved through order and self-discipline.

Our teachers prepare the classroom environment in an ordered arrangement with carefully chosen hands-on sequential learning materials, designed to be developmentally appropriate and aesthetically appealing. Used in the noncompetitive classroom, the materials allow each child to develop at his/her own individual rate.

The teachers never let the student risk failure until he has a reasonable chance of success, understanding the need to acquire basic skills before participating in a competitive learning situation. The years between four and seven are not only the prime time for laying an academic foundation, but most importantly the years when a child learns the ground rules of human behavior most easily. These are the years to help a child in preparing to take her/his place in society through the acquisition of good study habits and manners.

Self-motivation is the most valid impulse to learning. Students move themselves toward learning, unless they have been discouraged by fear of failure, criticism, and bad grades. At OSCS the teachers prepare the environment, offer challenging and interesting activities, function as a reference person and exemplar and observe the child constantly in order to help the process of "learning how to learn." But it is the child who learns, motivates through the work itself, to persist in a chosen task.

At OSCS, the student is free to learn because of having slowly acquired an inner discipline from exposure to both physical and mental order. This is the core of our philosophy. Habits of concentration, perseverance and thoroughness established in the early years will produce a confident and competent learner in later years. Our teachers will introduce children to the joy of learning and provides a framework in which individual and social discipline go hand and hand.

Our students will practice being adaptable, learning to work independently and in groups. They will be encouraged to make decisions from an early age, and to become problem-solvers who can make appropriate choices and manage their time well.

They will be encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their work freely with others. Good communication skills are important both in society and in the workplace of the future.

Research has shown that the best predictor of future success is a positive sense of self-esteem. Our programs, based on self-directed, noncompetitive activities, will help children develop strong self-images and the confidence to face challenges and change with optimism.