

# OCEAN ACADEMY

Social Enterprise, Technology, Innovation, Development, Education (SEaTIDE)

## INVITATION FOR 2022-2023 ENROLLMENT

**You don't have to leave the island  
to get a world-class education . . .**

- 25 International & 47 National Awards in Past 9 Years
- 27 International Partnerships

**And join the school that offers  
more opportunities . . .**

- Academic Education & Skills for Employment
- Highly Qualified Faculty
- Personal Education Plans
- Full Academic Offering
- Support for Special Needs
- Expert Belizean & International Mentors

- Day Shadows, Apprenticeships, Internships
- Personal Attention
- Students Can Earn School Fees
- Free tutoring



**Elmita, Form I**

*"I really like how my teachers at OA teach with humor, creativity and support. They help me explain my ideas, and solve important problems such as water conservation. I enjoy the fun and creative PE games we play, and most of all, I admire the artistic skills of our students and their paintings on the school walls."*

**Gilbert, Form II, Student Government President**

*"OA is a place where your dreams can become a reality. I've learned so many new skills, such as how to garden and to help myself stay fit and healthy with the help of my physical fitness and nutrition class. These help me become a better basketball athlete."*



**Daiannie, Form III, National Parliamentarian**

*"OA provides us with a vast array of courses to prepare us for future endeavors. Mixing math and coding inspired an interest in architecture. Bike with Purpose has greatly developed my leadership and confidence to "share my voice freely" while applying critical thinking skills. I am able to earn money for personal needs and*

*to pay school fees. I am thankful for the countless opportunities OA has granted us."*

**Emily, Form III, OA Coding Team**

*At OA, I have sharpened skills that were once a struggle for me: communication, confidence, and expressing my critical thinking with important leaders such as the Minister of State for Education, PUC judges, and adults and youth from around the world.*



**Dianely, Form IV**

*"OA provides us with steps to pursue our dreams. I discovered my passion for diving through a SCUBA Certificate Course and a dive shop internship. These innovative experiences along with Marine Biology and Business courses have been the catalyst for my plan to open my own little dive shop."*

# PERSONALIZED EDUCATION

## Personal Education Plan (PEP)

No two students are alike. We work with every student and their parents to create a personal plan based on the student's and parents' goals.

### Personal Interests, Strengths, Passion

We spend time figuring out what gets each student excited and create opportunities to develop interest areas. For example, students interview and “shadow” doctors, tour guides, mechanics, lawyers, and musicians; others assist teachers, and repair computers.

### Personal Challenges, Obstacles

Equally important, students identify weaknesses and obstacles and make plans to overcome them. For example, students earn money, get extra math tutoring, find scholarships, or attend counseling.

### Setting Goals

Students set goals and review progress. Goals are reviewed and updated.



*Students personalize the OAHS library with books they choose on Amazon.*

## Leader in Innovative, Research-Based, Competency-Based Education

**Ocean Academy has always applied the teaching strategies that work best for student growth according to published education experts. This commitment has led to OA regularly being several years “ahead” in strategies such as emphasizing meaningful skills instead of memorization, helping every student reach mastery (competency-based education), and immersing students into technology instead of textbooks. OA shares resources, experiences, and strategies with the Belize Education System.**



## Career “Shopping”

We guide the student (and parent) to create a career shopping list: what careers would be a good fit for you? Then, we set up times for students to observe a person in the career (day shadows) and if they like it, real hands-on experience working in the career (apprenticeships/internships). It is just as important for students to learn that they do not not like a career, so they do not prepare for the wrong path.

## Tertiary (Sixth Form/University) “Shopping List”

In the PEP, students and parents list the schools and programs that interest them. We talk with Sixth Form and University Department Chairs to learn about their courses and plan campus visits.

# THE OA WAY

The OA Way prepares students for success while in high school and after graduation.

## 1. Be Mindful

OA students learn to be respectful, professional, and positive so that they may focus on learning and personal growth. They begin every school day with a mindfulness circle to establish a positive vibe and approach to their day of learning. They learn how to calm themselves through mindfulness practices.

## 2. Know Your Passion

OA students are self aware, well rounded, and immersed in the real world. They are exposed to hundreds of opportunities every year so they may discover their personal brilliance and interests. Every student studies academics, entrepreneurship, and employability skills so that they are prepared for a constantly changing future.

## 3. Make Money

OA students are innovative, driven, and financially literate so they may make, save and invest money. They learn to make money *while* they are in high school doing what they love so they have the confidence to find or create employment doing something meaningful and enjoyable for the rest of their lives. They learn to be entrepreneurs, how to take risks and overcome challenges, and to save money in their bank accounts.



## 4. Create Legacy

OA students are socially responsible, visionary, and collaborative. They know that making money is not the only objective. They “give back” to their campus, their community, their nation, and their world.



# SEATIDE: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

## Students Earn Money in the Real World

More than half of OA students are involved in social enterprise or student-led businesses such as Bike with Purpose, Kayak with Purpose, Art with Purpose, and Technology with Purpose. They earn money for:

1. personal savings that is deposited into the student's personal savings accounts
2. personal school fees, and
3. school programs such as electives, sports, student activities, and events

## Students Learn in the Real World

Students build self-confidence, communication skills, innovation, and leadership when they get experience working and doing something that relates to their passion and interest areas.

## National and International Leader

OA is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in social enterprise. OA won two international awards:

1. Kayaking, fly fishing, and biking from UNICEF/Beyond Sport (competed with 350 organizations from 70 countries),
2. *Fish with Purpose*, Best Business Plan in North America and the Caribbean from Teach a Man to Fish in the U.K. (1250 schools from 93 countries participated).

OA trains educators across the Caribbean to incorporate social enterprise into their schools.

### **Bike with Purpose**

Students learn important job skills such as how to make eye-contact with adults, tell interesting stories, and speak with people from around the world.



Meanwhile, they earn money and school fees and act as eco-ambassadors for international visitors. Workshop training includes bike repair, history and ecology, first aid, and communication skills.



### **Art With Purpose**

Students study with art instructors and gain experience selling original art pieces at the school shop and art exhibits.

## Ideas Come to Life

When young people are part of starting and growing their own businesses, they are learning how to turn their ideas into something that can make money.

With 20% unemployment for young persons under the age of 25, our youth need to be prepared to create jobs they love.

**“With Purpose” Social Enterprises grow every year as students’ passion areas and ideas grow.**



*Art with Purpose*



*Kayak with Purpose*



*Technology with Purpose*



*Jewelry with Purpose*



*... And More*

# SEATIDE: TECHNOLOGY

## OA is a National Leader in Technology



OA students have been using laptops instead of text books since 2016. They learn coding (computer language) starting in First Form and understand that they are not just *users* of technology; they are *creators* of technology.

### Python Coding



Students are programming with the Python language and learning how to **create technology**.



### OA as Part of Team Belize in Mexico City's International Robotics Competition

OA participated in the first Team Belize in Mexico City with teams from 182 countries to design, build, program, and maneuver robots to lift, carry, and twist game pieces.



### Technology Summer Training

Cybersecurity professionals from Digital Silence (Colorado, USA) trained OA students and police officers in digital literacy, digital forensics (solving crimes with technology) and cybersecurity awareness.



### National Trophy in the Innovation in Technology Competition

They used Cayenne programming on Raspberry Pi to create an island emergency alert system to contact the police or health clinic when electricity is out.



### OA Coding Team's Mental Health Site

The team used Python to build a website and games to support teen support mental health.



### Electives

OA students have the opportunity to take a variety of technology electives including hardware and software repair and installation, networking, design, and programming.





# SEATIDE: INNOVATION & DEVELOPMENT

## Innovation

Innovation is all about “creating” some new thing or idea or “improving” an existing thing or idea. OA classes and projects push



students to find their OWN solutions. The first step to innovation, is getting passionate about something.

We guide students to find that passion in their Personal Education Plans (PEPs) which begin at the time of registration and continue until graduation.

## Development

Ocean Academy’s motto is “Preserving our Heritage, Creating our Future.” Students work on national and international projects to protect the sea, the island, and the “old ways” of Caye Caulker . . . while learning how to grow the island in ways that are positive and sustainable for all.

**Mercedes Requena**  
*Graduated 2012*



**Mercedes Requena**  
*works in her field as a biologist and mentors OA students in marine ecology.*

### OA Students Earned First Place in the Innovation Challenge ~ Fourth First-Place in Six Years!



Once again, in 2020, OA students won first place in the Innovation Challenge with the business and website they

developed, Purchase With Purpose, to provide a platform for students to sell products and services to fund their education and family needs.

Previous first place wins include: 2019: Financial



Advisory; 2016: *Ubuntu: I am Because We Are Youth*

*Mentoring*

*Partnership; 2015:*

“Hire Belize”, a mobile app to connect youth with employers and customers.



### Five OA students (2022) and three OA students (2021) were Selected to Represent National Youth as Parliamentarians

Students analyzed bills containing proposed laws that will affect youth and delivered passionate speeches on the floor of the National Assembly.



# PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSES

## Students Earn Professional Certificates in 25+ Hour Courses

Research shows that by combining both academics and technical skills as part of a high-school education, students can more deeply apply what they learn in the classroom and find meaning in education. In January and June, students who have completed all academic requirements, earn professional certificates to combine with the OA diploma to apply for jobs, scholarships, awards, and tertiary.



### Technology Services

Students provided technology services, such as designing & installing WIFI networking, for island customers.



### Marine Biology Management with Fisheries

Students were certified in Fish ID, Coral ID, and Fisheries Management.



### PADI Open-Water SCUBA

Students earned official Dive Cards.

### Culinary Arts

Students planned and prepared dishes while building skills.



### Scientific Data & GIS Mapping

Students collected and manipulated data to create maps using ArcGIS online software.



### Yoga as a Profession

Students developed and led classes for children and adults.



### Arts & Crafts as a Profession

In these two courses, students developed skills while creating products they could sell.

### Carpentry



### Professional Networking

Students were certified with an international University-Level exam.



### Partner Certifications

OA partners with experts to offer certifications that have included Electrical, Cosmetology, and Culinary Arts.





# SPORTS, INTERNSHIPS & PRIDE

## National Sports



OA athletes are competitive in Volleyball, Basketball, Football, and Track & Field. Both basketball teams won District, and earned 2nd place (male) and 3rd place (female) at Regional; a third-form student competed in Nationals and was recruited for a tertiary scholarship. Track & Field earned medals at Regional & National levels. Students gain skills in fun House competitions.

## National, Island, School and House Pride



## Internships at all Forms

OA students explore career paths, gain work experience, and build skills. The sky is the limit in what motivated OA students can learn and experience.



### Golf Cart Repair



### Hotel Office



### Retail Shop



### Bank



### Education



### Pharmacy



### Health Clinic



### Tourism



### Salon



### Fire Station



### Village Council



# HIGHLY QUALIFIED FACULTY

OA's faculty are highly trained professionals who are dedicated to academic and personal success for every student. Our teachers are life-long learners, and every month they study in Teacher Professional Development workshops. Principal Curry is the Chair of the National Principals Association (BAPSS).

Faculty qualifications include:

- 5 Master's Degree: Educational Leadership, Education, Dev. Studies, (2 in progress)
- 2 Master's Level Leadership Certificates (in progress)
- 7 Bachelor's Degrees in Secondary Education (5 in progress)
- 5 Bachelor's Degrees in Teaching Subjects with Post Graduate Diplomas in Education (1 in progress)

OA New Campus



Groundbreaking Ceremony, December 2019

**Courses include:** English, Algebra I/II, Geometry, Spanish, Integrated Science, 21C (Twenty-First Century Skills), Information Communication Technology, Belizean Studies, Social Emotional Learning, Applied Learning, Entrepreneurship, Physical Education. **F3/4:** Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Biology, Business. Select 4: Marine Biology, Psychology, Physical Fitness, Business Development, Marketing, Quick Books Accounting, Fiction Writing, Visual Arts. **Electives include:** Jewelry-making, Tourism, Kayaking, Marine Ecology, Crocodile Research Coalition, Mental Health Peer Advisors, Yoga, Police Skills, Computer Hardware, Software, Visual Arts, Gardening, Cake/Party Decorating, Embroidery, Pop Up Shops, and new ones every quarter. **Tutoring is free.**

**Compared to traveling: Save \$840 per month/ \$7,550 per year / \$30,200 for 4 years (and that is not including the cost of school fees). Use those funds to pay for Sixth Form, University, ITVET or to start a business!**

## COSTS\* AT OCEAN ACADEMY

	Form I	Form II	Form III	Form IV
<b>Yearly Registration</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees</b> For Belizean Citizens. International Student Costs are Double.	\$600/ year	\$700/ year	\$750/ year	\$750/ year
	\$60/ month	\$70/ month	\$75/ month	\$75/ month
<b>If receiving \$200 GOB Subsidy</b>	\$40/ month	\$45/ month		

## COSTS OF TRAVELING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

	Daily	Monthly	Yearly
<b>Water Taxi</b>	\$25	\$500	\$4,500
<b>City Taxi</b>	\$10	\$200	\$1,800
<b>Lunch</b>	\$10	\$200	\$1,800
<b>Total</b>	\$45	\$900	\$8,100

**\*This is ONLY travel costs. School Fees are additional costs.**

Included in fees: 2 PE Shirts, 1 PE shorts, (2 Badges for F1), WIFI/Sports/Activity Fees. Students who exhibit maturity and professionalism may earn their own school fees through Social Enterprise: Bike with Purpose, Kayak with Purpose, Art with Purpose, Technology with Purpose). \*Additional costs include: Annual Insurance, Optional Electives, \$100 Fundraising per student.

# HEAR FROM GRADUATES ...

## Karen Delgado, Graduated 2016, OA Spanish Teacher

My path began at OA, where I had the chance to study Spanish with a teacher who not only taught me but also motivated me to pursue a career in education. You see, when you lean into your passion, you can't go wrong. So, I set the goal of learning how to become a fantastic teacher like those this high school has to offer. Now that O.A. has given me the chance to be a part of this incredible team, I feel so inspired that I want to share that same motivation with my students. I encourage all my students to stay positive, work hard, and success will be knocking on your door; the same way success is knocking on mine.

## Leyvi Florian, Graduated 2015, OA Business Teacher

Since joining OA in 2011, I was challenged to explore my passions and interests. When I was introduced to Accounting, I absolutely fell in love with the subject and the idea of teaching. After finding my passion, I set the goal of studying to become a teacher and coming right back to OA as my legacy. OA prepared me for tertiary education in all aspects. During my studies at UB, I had to take both Business and Science courses and because of OA's buffet of opportunities, I was able to excel in both areas. As a teacher, I am now able to spark the interest of my students, guide them to find their passion and teach them skills for the workplace.



## Saira Reyes, Graduated 2015, OA Office Manager & Bursar

During my time as a student at OA, I was inspired to become a business person both at school and at home with my parents' business. I was honored to graduate in 2015 as the Salutatorian of my class, and continued to UB to complete an Associate's Degree in Business Science. At UB, I knew that OA taught me in the right direction, and that I had made the right decision: I knew what I wanted and went for it. In 2019, I began my journey at OA as the Bursar, where I was warmly welcomed by my past teachers. I overcame challenges, applied my education, and now I am able to give back to my family, community and to this beautiful institution.

## Mikhail Rosado, Graduated 2019, OA Office & Tech Staff

I graduated from OA in 2019 as the valedictorian, and during the pandemic, I came back to OA, not as a student, but as a staff member. OA has been great to me on both ends of the spectrum, as a student and as a staff member; they supported me to go study at UB (where I am still studying I.T.). OA allows for curiosity, so I am happy to be back at OA where I can let my mind flourish.

## Joshuan Gonzalez, Graduated 2021



"Since the first day, I stepped foot inside the gate of OA, I have been welcomed with open arms. I was offered numerous opportunities to pursue my passion and improve my communication skills. I was fortunate to do my internships with The Caye Caulker Humane Society where I developed a love and knowledge of animals and made the decision to continue down that path. I am currently enrolled at San Carlos University in Guatemala to further my studies in Veterinarian medicine."

## Daniela Novelo, Graduated 2020



"Ocean Academy was more than any regular school building, it was a home. One that thrived with family and friends. Ocean Academy offered me many opportunities along with the support I needed to achieve my dreams and goals. My first biology class paved my way into who I wanted to be and how I strive to help people. I was not only taught the material needed, but the skills I used in my everyday life. Upon graduating from Ocean Academy, I applied and was accepted in the Universidad Anahuac Mayab, an international university in Mexico where I am completing my degree in which I then aim to specialize in Maxillofacial surgery. Ocean Academy is the beginning of many great accomplishments for its students."

## Dian Canul, Graduated 2022



"At the first steps into OA, I was welcomed as more than a student, rather as family. This family offered me many opportunities to help find a passion I so happily enjoy, after pushing all my academic efforts and expanding my knowledge in different work fields. I held my first chef knife in a Culinary arts club at OA, cooking simple but exquisite meals. My heart and divine taste for food blossomed, and I then knew the kitchen was my office. Since then I have gone above and beyond to push boundaries to strive and prosper as a chef at Culinary Institution in Mexico, Quintana Roo, studying Gastronomy. I so dearly thank the OA family for helping me find the spice to build taste, and flavors as I pave my road to success."