

December 2, 2019

Dear Monroe County School Board,

Ocean Studies Charter School is dedicated to providing a high quality education with a marine science focus to the children of the Upper Keys. Our goal is to provide our students with the opportunity to become stewards of our unique Florida Keys environment. We would like to increase our enrollment from 116 students to 140 students.

Our new location is more expansive than our current location, as it includes more land for a playground, outdoor classroom space, and improved parking facilities. The classrooms in the new building will allow us to continue to meet class size requirements with low student to teacher ratios. The increase from 4 to 5 classes will allow us to better serve families who are interested in having siblings and cousins in different classrooms. Another benefit will be the opportunity to vary class populations each year and for students to experience different teaching styles.

We currently have the capacity for 116 students:

- Sea Stars - Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade class taught by a Montessorian and a certified teacher
- Dolphins - 1<sup>st</sup> grade/2<sup>nd</sup> grade split class taught by a Montessorian/certified teacher and a certified teacher
- Manta Rays - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade/4<sup>th</sup> grade class taught by 2 certified teachers
- Sharks - 4<sup>th</sup> grade/5<sup>th</sup> grade class taught by 2 certified teachers

Proposed increase:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade/3<sup>rd</sup> grade split class taught by a Montessorian and a certified teacher.

We are an A-rated public school based on the best practices of accelerated learning, and offer a rigorous academic program, producing students who meet or exceed the Florida State Standards in language arts, math, science, and social studies. We recognize the need to educate our youth in order to preserve and protect the fragile South Florida environment. We are committed to providing this opportunity to more students in the Upper Keys.



Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please let us know if there any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trisha Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Trisha Woods  
Principal

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Thompson". The signature is more stylized and less legible than the one above it, appearing as a series of connected loops and strokes.

David Thompson  
President of the OSCS Board of Directors