



OUR SISTERS' SCHOOL  
Charting the Course





*“I have known for many years that OSS is unique and special...the way they have handled this pandemic has only magnified the LOVE they have for teaching and for our ‘little humans.’ It has never been more evident.”*

*Kristen Mendes P’17, ’22*

Navigators know where they are and where they want to be. They harness winds and weather storms. They look to the future while attending to the present, knowing that every moment matters.

OSS families are navigators who make choices and guide their learners’ journeys. They choose OSS with the hope of reaching dreams. They don’t send their Sister Sailors here—they join the voyage.

The good ship OSS carries loads of precious cargo. Our duty, our honor, is to chart and stay the course toward the future that our students deserve.



KYLEAH BODDEN '21, PROVIDENCE COUNTRY  
DAY SCHOOL '25

### CAIRA BODDEN '25

#### ROSHALENE BODDEN, MOTHER

With Kyleah recently graduated and Caira starting at OSS, Roshalene is focused on the big picture. *“OSS is an environment that engages the whole student. It’s a safe haven where girls can explore who they are at a crucial time of their development.”* She has seen the impact. *“Kyleah went from being a shy sixth-grader to becoming one of the strongest voices in her class, advocating for her classmates and being someone others would come to.”*

At OSS, Kyleah was able to tap into strengths she didn’t know she had. *“I found sometimes I could help kids my age or younger if they have problems,”* she says. *“Either I’ve gone through the same thing or I understood it on some level.”* Younger sister Caira is excited to be at OSS. She says it’s *“creative and different.”* Kyleah has sage advice for her: *“Allow yourself to be pushed out of your comfort zone.”*



### JANELLIE CARRASCO '24

#### ELIZABETH CARRASCO, MOTHER

Sixth-grader Janellie says OSS has already benefited her. *“After one year, I feel more confident in myself. I started opening up more to the world and learning that mistakes are OK.”* Her mom sees a change too. *“Janellie is happier.”* Elizabeth appreciates the staff’s dedication, especially during Covid. *“They hide nothing, they do their best to let parents know what’s really going on.”*

Mother and daughter formed a special bond during 2020 when they started a small business and came up with ideas together. Janellie says, *“Communicating with my mom is my favorite part.”* Elizabeth adds that it has improved her daughter’s math and public speaking skills.

*“I want to set more goals, and inspire other people,”* Janellie says thoughtfully, like she sees the older students do. *“And this year I’m going to try to speak up more.”*



LEE CRANFORD '18, GREATER NEW BEDFORD  
REG. VOC-TECH HIGH SCHOOL '22  
CRYSTAL CRUZ, MOTHER

Crystal learned about OSS from the Girl Scouts, one of our community partners, when she led the School's troop. *"I was impressed with the learning beyond the School, and the partnerships in the community. It's a unique experience that really prepares kids for life."*

Lee agrees. *"It was such a good choice to come here. It was challenging academically, but I managed and came through."* Crystal adds, *"Lee's academic success in high school is because of OSS."*

During high school, Lee has been working at Youth Opportunities Unlimited, another OSS community partner. *"I play with kids; I teach them life lessons."* Lee is also a member of YOU's Strategic Planning Committee and plans to study psychology in college. *"As a person who knows what it means to struggle with mental health, I want to give back to other teens and children who might have the same issue."*



ALEX ABU-RAYA '22  
ISABELLE FONSECA '17, LOOMIS CHAFFEE  
SCHOOL '21, BOSTON UNIVERSITY '25  
KIANNA FONSECA '13, BISHOP STANG HIGH  
SCHOOL '17, EMMANUEL COLLEGE '21 (NOT PICTURED)  
PATRICIA ABU-RAYA, MOTHER & AUNT  
MARIA ABU-RAYA, GRANDMOTHER

Patricia knew that her daughters belonged at OSS. *"My girls are now independent, outspoken, and empowered. They are who they are today because of OSS."* After studying social justice, Kianna works at a homeless shelter in Dorchester. *"I chose social change and service because of OSS,"* she says. Isabelle calls OSS *"an amazing place to grow and flourish."* Alex follows in her cousins' footsteps, *"I enjoy the creative liberty here."* Grandmother Maria sums it up, *"My husband and I wanted our children to have a good education and a better life. To see my grandchildren come from OSS with education and independence, I thank God for this school."*

*“Thank you for making my dream come true—  
watching my granddaughter stand taller, speak  
louder, and think more independently is a joy  
to watch.”*

*Paula Monteiro GP '24*



## WE ARE OSS.

We are explorers, finding the best in ourselves  
and in each other.

We are scientists, studying the world we share.

We are artists, imagining possible worlds.

We are engineers, designing solutions to  
problems.

We are advocates, offering support and  
building strength.

We are captains, leading with responsibility.

We are deckhands, doing what needs to be done.

We are shipmates, on this journey together.





RHYAN PINA '17, ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL '21  
BOSTON COLLEGE '25

JENNA & DWAYNE PINA, PARENTS

Education has always been important to Rhyana's family. Her mother, Jenna, is a teacher. Her father, Dwayne, now works in admissions and coaches basketball at St. George's School. A friend told the family about OSS. "We were happy we found it," says Dwayne. "The curriculum, the programming, the schedule, and the expectations are high. If you meet them, it can change your life."

Rhyana, who starts nursing school this fall, says OSS did indeed change her life. "It helped me mature and know about myself in ways that I wouldn't have at another school. OSS set me on a good path. I was prepared. I knew how to manage my time and how to treat people the right way."

As Jenna says, "OSS was the best thing we could have done for Rhyana." Dwayne hopes to "pay it back" when he joins the OSS Graduate Support Committee this year.



TASHYANNA PIRES '12, NEW BEDFORD HIGH  
SCHOOL '16, UMASS DARTMOUTH '20 BA, '21 MBA

JOCELINA PIRES, MOTHER

Tashya and her mother, Joelina, are bookends, each holding up one side of the OSS experience. Tashya recently earned an accelerated MBA and launched an online jewelry design business. She says her time at OSS changed the way she thought about herself. "I had never seen myself as a confident person. But when I got to high school, I could put into play what I learned at OSS and bring it to sports and honors and AP classes."

Joelina joined the OSS board after Tashya graduated. She wanted to give back by contributing the perspective of an OSS family. "Being on the board was wonderful. Everyone is so passionate, talking about bettering the lives of young girls. I would think, 'They're talking about my Tashya!'"

Today, Joelina says, "I look back at those little girls, flourishing, becoming wonderful young ladies, with opportunities they probably wouldn't have without OSS."

*“OSS supported and offered me so many different opportunities, and has allowed me to be myself—allowed me to paint my own story.”*

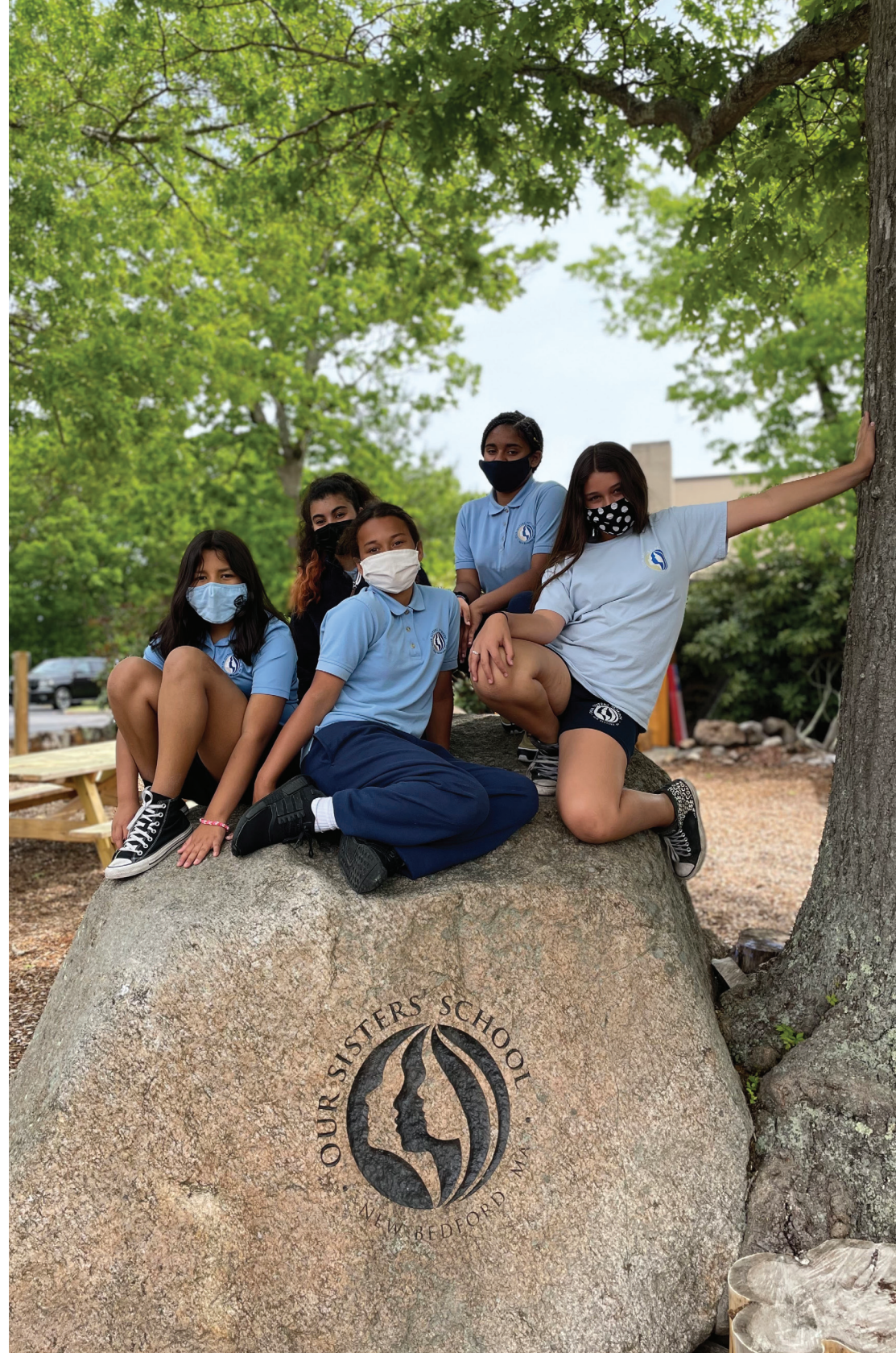
*Arie '21*

## IMPACT

For many of us, time seemed to stop mid-pandemic. But at OSS, time never even slowed for our staff, our students and their families.

Steady in-person learning made all the difference. Staff resilience, academic rigor, an umbrella of safety and support, and the joy of connection kept student spirits up, parent schedules manageable, and learning outcomes high. The pandemic did not diminish our school's value to the community; it magnified it.

Thank you so much for staying by our side. We depend on YOU as OSS is tuition-free and not eligible for state funding. Together, we will continue on this voyage to empower our girls and our community.





# OUR SISTERS' SCHOOL

145 Brownell Avenue  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
508.994.1255  
[www.OurSistersSchool.org](http://www.OurSistersSchool.org)

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Photography by Kim Goddard  
and OSS staff

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