



OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
PRE K-8 CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*"Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School provides an atmosphere rooted in the Catholic faith, dedicated to individual academic excellence while preparing life-long learners and responsible Christian adults."*

November 20, 2020

Dear OLS Families,

Today we end our 2 weeks of Remote Learning! Thank you for your support and flexibility with our switch, and we are ready to return to school for in person learning beginning this Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. I (and the faculty!) am looking forward to having the children back in the building. As you prepare them for the return to school, please ensure they have their books and supplies, as well as any borrowed laptops or Chromebooks. I encourage you to leave yourself some extra time for morning drop off since everyone will be carrying a larger load than usual, and it will probably take extra time to get everything out of the cars. It might also be a good time to remind your child that this switch to Remote Learning was not the result of one particular person – we have actually had several students and adults who required testing, and thankfully all were negative. This is the “new reality” we are facing, and I am sure this is not the first time we will be faced with this decision.

If your child will be a Remote Learner during December, please make sure I have received your Remote Instruction form by this afternoon. I have attached a copy to this email, as well as the Return to School form if your child was at home for the month of November and will return for December.

As a follow up to my letter of November 10<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to share that the 2020-2021 CYO Basketball Season has officially been cancelled. Here is the quote from the CYO Director’s communication to the Athletic Directors, “While it is disappointing for all of us to not play in our 68th consecutive season of Mercer County CYO Basketball, this decision is based on the safety of everyone involved. We look forward to resuming CYO Basketball next season.” I am already looking forward to the next basketball season!

Next week is a short week, but a busy one! The PTA Thanksgiving Pie delivery is set for Tuesday 11/24 at 5:00 PM. Tables will be set up outside Door #3 for easy pick up. Wednesday morning is our Thanksgiving Prayer service, which will be livestreamed at 8:15 AM. The link will be available on the school website a few minutes prior to the start. Thank you in advance to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade hosts! Wednesday is a half day – a 12:20

PM dismissal – and we are off Thursday and Friday, with classes resuming on Monday 11/30/20.

Our Diocesan schools, including OLS will participate in the global “Giving Tuesday” on December 1<sup>st</sup>. I have attached a letter that further explains this day, and I encourage you to share it with family and friends. We have our own page on the [www.leadinfaith.org](http://www.leadinfaith.org) website where contributions can be made and prayers can be offered. Take a look at our picture gallery while you are there because you will see the smiling faces of some of our students!

The Pre K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade music classes have been practicing for our virtual Christmas Show which will be taped the week of December 7<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to have it available the following Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for you to watch with your family. As soon as I have the link information I will share it with you. This is the BEST way to get into the Christmas spirit – listening to children’s sweet voices as they share the meaning of Christmas.

A few last reminders for you since the next parent letter will be on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade clothing drive is this Sunday 11/22 between 10:00 and 3:00 outside Door #3. Retakes and Cap & Gown photos are on Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>; First Friday mass is on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM, led by our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and will be livestreamed, and Report Cards will be available after 5:00 PM on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>.

I wish you many Thanksgiving blessings, although it will most likely be a very different one for most of us. As I have stated in earlier correspondence, especially if your social circle is expanding, please take care and monitor for signs/symptoms of COVID and quarantine if needed. Your child can always be a remote learner through the 14 days. As you know, I prefer to err on the side of caution and be safe.

There is still much to be thankful for, even this year. I am so grateful for each of you and your children, children who make me smile and bring me joy every single day (just listen to morning or afternoon prayers!). I am blessed to work with a faculty and staff who are committed to providing the highest level of education to your children, regardless of whether they are in the classroom or online. And we have a parish that fully supports our mission. I pray you are able to share the day with those you love, and that you are healthy and safe. Happy Thanksgiving to you!

Be well,  
Mrs. Maureen Tuohy, Principal