



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."*

Dear Parents,

Happy Friday! As we close out our second full week of "remote learning," it seems like it has been much longer since I have seen your children - and I truly miss them, as well as the faculty, and the constancy of our "normal" school day. I hope you and your family are well, and you are finding the rhythm of a new routine. This has undoubtedly been a challenging few weeks for everyone, and I continue to pray that our faith provides comfort to you during this anxious, turbulent time.

This second week has given rise to new opportunities for classroom interactions, with many morning meetings and lessons occurring via video conferencing. This is a way for the students to see each other and the teacher, and provide a level of comfort that "everyone is ok," as one student put it. More technical lessons can be taught through these platforms, and they allow for questions and detailed explanations as needed. We realize that technology in your home may not always be available to support this interaction or there may be more than one user at a time – and these are the challenges that remote learning poses, but we will work with you and offer flexibility as needed. Please reach out to the teacher and let him/her know any conflicts or technical issues you are having so the teacher can make necessary adjustments.

Every day your children should be checking the OLS Homework website for each of their teachers, including the Enrichment classes. Several of the faculty are using Google Classroom as a means to provide new work and submit completed work. I encourage you to check in with your child(ren) and see what they are working on, when assignments are due, if they need extra help, and ensuring the work is actually submitted. We are required by the state to take daily attendance, and submission of work, daily check ins, visibility on calls, and participating in Google Classroom are the ways this happens. If we do not hear from your child, we will reach out to make sure everyone is doing well. If you have any questions or concerns, please email your child's teacher or me at any time and let us know how we can help you.

The "Drop-Off / Pick-Up Box" is still located outside Door #3, and it has been well used so far, especially with our younger students. It will remain there for the next two weeks, so please use it as needed. Your child's teacher will communicate directly with you about when new work is placed in the Pick-Up Box. Again, this is not mandatory, and most classes who are using an online platform to submit work do not need it. The work

deposited in the box provides another way for the faculty to assess how work is progressing, and allows you a chance to clear out completed school work. Thank you to all who are using the disinfecting wipes after touching the box – I appreciate it!

Our third round of Renaissance Star Assessments has been postponed, as well as Confirmation, the Ring Ceremony, prayer services, and several PTA Fundraisers. As new information or dates become available, I will communicate those to you. This pandemic has taught me that I can plan all I like, but that can all change in an instant. So, I am practicing my flexibility, and I will continue these weekly communications and give you any updates as soon as I know them.

On Monday morning, March 30<sup>th</sup>, I am going to try something new. I miss our morning routine of prayers, announcements, and the morning words of wisdom. So, for the first time ever, I will use the OLS PTA Facebook page to host a “Facebook Live” video at 8:00 AM that includes morning prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, announcements, and a quick hello. I encourage all children (and parents), grades Pre K 3 – 8 to join in and begin our day and our week together, just like we always do when we are at school. Let’s try to have a “traditional” morning as a school community, even if we are spread over many miles.

Thank you, parents for all you are doing to support and partner with the faculty and the students. We are all learning together, and it is scary, intimidating, and overwhelming all at once. The faculty are trying new ways of teaching, and the children are learning that sometimes the classroom is a not such a bad place to learn! We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we continue to find ways to create, teach, encourage, coach and deliver quality lessons. Please reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, technical issues, or need to share information. We are here for you. One day soon I look forward to welcoming our students back into the building, and I wish you peace and comfort during this trying time.

Remember to join me Monday morning, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM on the OLS PTA Facebook page so we can start our week together!

God bless you and your families,

Mrs. Maureen Tuohy