



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."

May 15, 2020

Dear OLS Families,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the middle of May! When this all began in March, who would have ever thought that we would still be utilizing remote learning and working from home? It has certainly been a learning experience for everyone, not only educationally but emotionally and spiritually as well. If you join me for Morning Prayers and Announcements, you know we use Pope Francis' "Prayer for Protection During the Coronavirus Pandemic" to give us hope and strength during this period. I encourage you to find this beautiful prayer and use it in your homes as well. It is a calming way to start the day as we ask Mary our mother for protection and healing during this time.

Remote learning continues with video conferences, classwork, homework and projects being collected and graded. Please remind your child that the Enrichment Classes (Spanish, Computer, Art, Music, PE) all have work to be completed and that work must be submitted in order to be graded. Please check under the OLS Homework on our school website or your child's Gmail account for all assignments. After a discussion with the Enrichment faculty, it is apparent that many students are missing work. Please email the appropriate teacher if you have any questions about missing assignments. All work must be submitted by June 1st in order to be graded. Additionally, students are required to attend video / Zoom meetings with their class. Being visible during these classes provides the opportunity for teachers take attendance, gauge understanding of material, provides the opportunity to ask questions, and allows a connection with each student. Again, please reach out to the teachers if you do not see your child on these calls – they should be participating several times a week.

As a follow up to the remote learning, you will be receiving a separate email from me today with two surveys as explained in Mrs. Tier's communication dated April 30th. We are asking for your input and perspective on the remote learning environment, as well as on our Catholic Identity. I encourage you to add your voice and complete these surveys by Friday, May 22, 2020. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Attached to this letter you will find communication from Monsignor Gervasio regarding the Our Lady of Sorrows-St. Anthony Parish updates. Included in the letter is information on the phased approach to opening our Churches, stewardship, and memorial masses and weddings. We are looking forward to the day when we can safely return to Church to celebrate mass as a community.

Yesterday we learned that the House Democrats released The Heroes Act, H.R. 6800, the fourth phase of economic stimulus relief or CARES 4. H.R.6800 includes several provisions that would protect, and even expand, funding for programs that Congress established in the last CARES Act. However, unlike the previous CARES Act, H.R.6800 would prohibit nonpublic schools including our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Trenton from accessing any portion of the proposed \$200 billion included in the legislation for education. I ask you to use the link below and reach out to our Congressmen and let them hear our voices and ask for their support of nonpublic schools. You can also find this information on our school website.

<https://njcatholic.org/faith-in-action?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f74344%2frespond>

While our in-school Spring Book Fair did not occur, we have been provided the opportunity to participate in Scholastic's "Virtual Book Fair" that they are holding for all schools between May 11th and September 4th. We will begin our fair on Monday, May 18th, and just like the in-school version, students can find and buy books, posters, and craft kits that will be delivered directly to your home. The information is posted on our school website and our Facebook accounts, and as always, OLS receives a portion of the total purchases. This is a terrific opportunity to find some enjoyable summer reading!

Thank you to those who have sent in photos of your smiling children, we are so happy to see their faces! Continue to forward them to Mr. Pasculli at lpascull@olsschool.us and he will post them in the Photo Album on our website. It is one small way to connect with each other. You can also join my Morning Prayers & Announcements on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:00 AM on the OLS PTA Facebook site. For 5 minutes or so we join together to pray, honor our flag, give shout outs to our birthday people, and share some positive thoughts. It's a great way for me to start the day, knowing you and your children are there with me.

Thank you for your continued support of our remote learning. We are grateful to you and the time and effort you give every day to help us successfully navigate this new way of educating your children. Enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend, and I hope you find time to relax and enjoy your family!

Stay safe and be well,
Mrs. Tuohy