



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."

August 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

The countdown begins – believe it or not, there is only a little over three weeks until school opens! We have been preparing for the start of the school year, which as you know, will look very different this year. However, with the Back to School Plan we have created (July 31st email and on the school website), I am confident that we have taken every precaution possible to protect the health and safety of our faculty, staff and students. Unlike the public schools, we do have the space and class sizes to safely accommodate our students, which is why we can open our doors. Even with Governor Murphy's announcement this week that the public schools have the option of going to all remote learning, we will offer in person as well as remote learning.

This communication serves several purposes. First, I am asking you to submit your decision on whether your child (ren) will begin the school year via remote learning. All students will follow our traditional school day schedule, which means classes will be live, so students are expected to be "in class" even if remote learning. Prayers will start at 8:00 AM, and then classes will begin. Remote learners will be visible, will participate in class, will complete assignments at the same time as in person students, and will submit work on due dates. When choosing your attendance option, please make your decision based on what is best for your family. There are no right or wrong choices; it's what works best for you. Each month there will be an opportunity to change, so no child is locked into an option for more than one month. If you are choosing for your child to attend Our Lady of Sorrows remotely for the month of September, the "Remote Learning Preference Agreement" must be completed and returned to my attention no later than **Thursday, August 20th**. This provides enough time for the seating in each

classroom to be arranged safely, and to gather the books that the remote learning students will need to pick up during the week of August 31st.

The second purpose for this communication is to share the dates and times of Parent Webinars via Zoom. While not mandatory, these Zoom calls will provide the opportunity for me to share updates and/or changes to the Back to School Plan, review basic information regarding the beginning of school, and address questions you may have. The webinars are grouped by grade in order to provide grade specific information and to maximize the number of people on a call at one time. If you are unable to make your scheduled time, you may participate on a different day. Here is the call information:

Tuesday August 25th at 7:00 PM for Grades 6 – 8

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84262855622?pwd=bWpoNElwSzQ2Mi9MN05tTm5xV2ZnZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 6285 5622

Passcode: 918434

Wednesday August 26th at 7:00 PM for Grades 3 – 5

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84111588015?pwd=aktaVzFpOSSt5SXBOandsb090ZEdrUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 1158 8015

Passcode: 199119

Thursday August 27th at 7:00 PM for Grades Pre K – 2

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85988307453?pwd=SVZKcnFuSGxRNUEwcFZVVjRYZkcyQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 8830 7453

Passcode: 272576

As a reminder, Grades 5 – 8 only will report to school on Tuesday September 8th 2020 for a half day (12:20 dismissal), and Grades Pre K 3 – 4 only will report to school on Wednesday September 9th 2020 for a half day (12:20 dismissal), and everyone will have a full day beginning on Thursday September 10th 2020. The students will be wearing their regular school uniforms as a way to maintain a small sense of normalcy in an otherwise very different return to school. Also, all students are required to have submitted their updated physical examination forms prior to the first day of school. Especially this year, it is critical that every student is up to date with their shot records and they are submitted on a timely basis. A final reminder: ASP is not available during September. I realize this is a tremendous inconvenience for many, but for the safety of all students and adults it is the best decision at this time.

Please keep our 8th grade graduates in your prayers this week. They will finally have their Graduation on Thursday night. While very streamlined this year, I am excited that they will be recognized and honored for their accomplishments at Our Lady of Sorrows. They can finally close out this chapter and really prepare for high school!

Stay safe, be well, and I am looking forward to seeing not only your children but you as well. Thank you for your patience, your insights and questions as we journey through this “new” terrain. I continue to pray for the health and safety of you and your families, as well as for peace throughout the world.

Be well!

Mrs. Maureen Tuohy, Principal