



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."

September 18, 2020

Dear OLS Families,

Happy Friday! We have successfully navigated our first full week of school, and I am so proud of how well everyone has handled this new journey. Whether in school or remote learner, thank you for your support and for ensuring your children are following the correct protocols we have established. You have played a huge part in making this work, and I thank you! There is much to share this week, so I apologize in advance for the length of this communication!

Our "Virtual Back to School Nights" will be held next Tuesday (Grades Pre K through 4th) and Thursday (Grades 5 - 8) nights at 6:30 PM. I will begin the general meetings at 6:30 PM via Zoom and present the "State of the School" and then introduce our new PTA Executive Board who will spend a few minutes with you. For grades Pre K through 4th, we will end our meeting by 7:00 PM and you will then Zoom with your child's teacher via another Zoom link beginning at 7:00 PM. We do have parents with multiple children, so there are 2 sessions for each teacher: a 7:00 PM session and a 7:30 PM session in order for you to meet with each teacher.

Grades 5 – 8 will follow a similar format. Thursday night I will begin at 6:30 PM, the PTA will speak with you, and at 7:00 PM our general meeting will end. 5th grade parents will leave the meeting and will Zoom with Mrs. Costantini. Grades 6 – 8 will remain on the Zoom and we will meet as a middle school faculty with each grade. 7:00 – 7:15 is 6th Grade, 7:15 – 7:30 is 7th Grade, and 7:30 – 7:45 is 8th Grade. You may leave and come back for your scheduled time; you do not have to "wait" online if you do not have a child in that grade. All Zoom links are on the attached "Zoom Links" page.

Thank you for following the safety protocol and working as our partner by taking your child's temperature and checking for COVID symptoms each morning and then recording your answer on Genesis PRIOR to arriving at school. This must be done every morning if your child is attending school in person, and due to Diocesan guidelines, entrance to school is not permitted if this question is not answered. While

inconvenient and another layer to your morning, this is for the safety of everyone in the school.

Over the next 3 weeks we will administer the first round of “Renaissance STAR Assessments” to Grades 2 – 8. This is the same online assessment program used last year that assesses the Math and Language Arts skills of our students. You will notice the assessment is occurring earlier this year in order for us to accurately identify the skill levels of our students considering the last day of “formal” school was March 13, 2020. Each Math and Language Arts class will be assigned a specific time for testing; remote learners will be included in this assessment and will receive information early next week regarding the testing site, log on credentials, time frames, etc. The data received from the assessments will guide and shape the direction of the lessons as we move forward.

Attached is the October “Remote Learning Agreement” and “Return to School” notice. We will follow the same procedure as in August – if your child will be a Remote Learner for the month of October (5th – 30th), please sign the Remote Learning Agreement and return to me either via email or regular mail. If your child is currently a Remote Learner and he/she will return to school on Monday, October 5th, please sign the “Return to School” notice. If returning, please make sure your child brings ALL books back to school, and if a device was borrowed, that is returned as well. Once again, there is no right or wrong decision with Remote Learning – please do what is best for your family at this time.

Beginning this upcoming Monday, September 21st, we will begin prayers at the normal time of 7:50 AM instead of 8:00 AM. We can do this because the children have been arriving on time and we are able to scan their temperatures and get them to class by 7:50 AM – so thank you parents! Our mornings are going very smoothly so far.

Remember to check the “eBackpack” on the school website (www.olsschool.us) for all fundraising information and letters. The PTA has some well-timed events occurring right now, such as sales of OLS Face Masks and fall mums, plus today’s Classic Sub Dine Out. Our PTA always has something to share so make it a point to check it regularly!

We offer our prayers and congratulations to the 3rd graders who will be making their First Holy Communion tomorrow morning! They have patiently waited for this very special day, and we are excited for them to take the next step in their spiritual journey.

Finally, if you are a new family, whether a transfer in from another school or a new Pre K or Kindergartener, I am asking you to please send in a family picture. We would like to create a bulletin board to welcome you – and the kids love to see their faces on this board in the main hallway. A 5 x7 photo would be perfect, but any size is acceptable.

I look forward to sharing time with you at Back to School Night next week. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your belief in Catholic School, have a wonderful weekend, and stay well.

Take care,
Mrs. Maureen Tuohy, Principal