



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 4, 2020

Dear OLS families,

Happy Labor Day! We are only a few days from the first day of school, and we are ready to welcome your children into a new school year. The building has been cleaned and disinfected, the desk shields are in place, desks are appropriately distanced, signage and floor markings have been positioned around the building, hand sanitizers have been installed, the technology has been tested, and the teachers have prepped and practiced new routines and protocols. We are ready to begin – we just need the children now!

I wanted to share a few reminders with you and provide follow up to the Parent Zoom Meetings held last week. Governor Murphy has not rescinded his Executive Order on wearing masks in schools, so the staff and students will be required to keep their masks on except while eating or if outside and 6 feet apart. Also, he has not provided any further clarification on closing a school if there is a case of COVID-19 in the building, it remains case by case. When I receive any updated information on either these or any other changes, I will immediately relay that to you.

Please send the children in with 2 clean masks each day. Several parents have asked about students using "mask lanyards" which is allowed. I know they can be purchased on Amazon (of course!) rather inexpensively. Masks should be appropriate for a Catholic school student, but do not have to be school colors. Children should also bring water bottles since we are not using the water fountains at this time (reusable water bottles are fine). Please make sure your child has a Gmail account so they have access to Google classroom (and you do too). Thank you to everyone who has sent your new Gmail address, they have all been updated in Genesis.

Earlier this week I sent a communication via email with the directions to download Genesis onto your iPhone or Android for the Pre-Screening for Travel and Daily Temperature/symptom checks. This information has also been placed on the school website on the landing page. Once you access Genesis, you will go to the Forms tab and the only question available until school starts is the "Pre-Screening for Travel" question. Please answer the question prior to your child's first day of school. Until that question is answered, you won't have access to the Parent Portal in Genesis.

If your child is a Remote Learner for the month of September, they will begin Remote Learning on Thursday, the first full day. Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent getting the students settled into the classrooms, distributing books, and practicing class and hallway routines, so there will be a substantial amount of downtime for those not in the classroom. Academics will truly begin on Thursday, so your child will have their access codes by then and will begin attending prayers and classes at 8:00 AM.

Morning and afternoon prayers will be held via Zoom for all Remote Learners and for anyone else in our school community who would like to join us. Morning prayers will begin Thursday, 9/10/20 at 8:00 AM and accessed with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86581209591?pwd=d1YODI0T2s0VWJJYVRHanpsa3VDQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 8120 9591, Passcode: p1aR88

Afternoon prayers will begin Thursday, 9/10/20 at 2:20 PM and accessed with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87913731179?pwd=SWFrK2J0dIBRQ2dtYWpsM0ZjbjB2dz09>

Meeting ID: 879 1373 1179, Passcode: H4kK5Y

The final reminder pertains to the first 2 days of school, which are both 12:20 PM dismissals. Grades 5 – 8 will have their first day on Tuesday, September 8th, and Pre-K – 4 will report on Wednesday, September 9th. All 1st – 8th grade students should be in their classrooms no later than 7:50 AM. Kindergarten will report at 9:00 AM at the main entrance to do their traditional “First Day Pictures” at the front of the school. On both days we will have Faculty and Staff available to assist the students with carrying in supplies and guiding them to their classrooms. Temperatures will be taken as the children enter the building as a back up to what you have already done at home. I anticipate the car line will take a little longer the first few days, so please try to arrive prior to 7:45 AM. Other than students, faculty and staff, there is no admittance into the building to anyone else without a scheduled appointment.

We are excited for the start of the new year. While the classrooms make look different, the faculty, staff and I are working to ensure your children feel safe, comfortable, and secure. The health and safety of everyone is our primary concern, and we wholeheartedly believe we are doing everything possible to protect each person in our building. We know there are going to be glitches with technology, or someone forgets a mask, or a scenario we haven’t envisioned. But with patience and prayer, we will be successful in our primary endeavor: to educate your children spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically and socially. Thank you for your trust and belief in our mission, you are our greatest partner. Have a wonderful weekend, and stay well.

Be well,
Mrs. Maureen Tuohy, Principal