



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."*

February 12, 2021

Dear OLS Families,

February is certainly giving us a run for our money, and as I told the kids, I feel like we are living in a snow globe! We have already used 2 of our 3 snow days, with one in reserve "just in case". I have my fingers crossed that the snow anticipated for Tuesday bypasses us. If it doesn't, then Tuesday will be a remote learning day. This leads me to explain how I decide to have a "snow day" or "remote learning day" versus a "delayed opening" - it is not an arbitrary decision. We are part of Hamilton Township School District, so if Hamilton Transportation is closed and there are no buses because the roads are either not plowed or not safe to drive upon, then that is the major deciding factor. Plus, many of the faculty and staff are local, and if they are unable to get to school, then I consider that too. This information leads to either taking a snow day or making it a remote learning day. A delayed opening is called if Hamilton Transportation will be able to get the buses out and the roads will be easily plowed but it will take some time to complete. Hamilton Transportation contacts me as soon as they make their decision, and then I send out the School Message to you. If you have questions about this, please contact me, not your child's teacher. Ultimately I make the decision, which is always based on everyone's safety and the information I have at that moment in time.

I do apologize for the chaos in the parking lot on Thursday morning. The plows were delayed in getting to us, and by the time I arrived at school, it was too late to call a delay. I appreciate the patience you showed as the plows raced around you!

If we do suddenly switch to a virtual learning day, the students may not have all the materials they need at home. The teachers are aware of that, and all we ask is your

flexibility and patience. Have your child do what they can, and the rest will be made up when we return to school. If internet access or technology is an issue, please send a courtesy email to the teacher so she/he is aware of the situation. We continue to learn how to navigate through all of this, and communication is essential. While not a perfect system, we are making it work.

Whether your child is remote for a day or a month, PLEASE ensure they are online at 8:00 AM. Classes begin at 8:00 and attendance is taken at that time. If your child is not visible, he/she is marked absent. We are also noticing some students are visible at the beginning of class, but then “disappear.” All students are to be visible (video on) for the entire class, or again, marked absent. They are kids, so monitoring their online status is important – they need to be online and in-class to learn.

Thank you to everyone who has returned a registration packet. Registration is going very well, and many of the new registrations have come to us via “word of mouth” which is the best publicity we could ever receive. Remember that Monday is the last day to apply for the first round of Financial Aid through the FACTS system, and I encourage you to apply.

This upcoming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent. We will watch the mass via livestream, and then Monsignor Gervasio will come to the school to distribute our ashes. He will go to each class and use a new Q-tip for each person to ensure the proper sanitary protocols are followed. We will miss gathering together in Church, and we are grateful to Monsignor for taking the time to help us begin our Lenten journey in the way we are accustomed to.

Monday is a holiday in honor of President’s Day. Enjoy the long weekend, and hoping you feel loved on Valentine’s Day!

Be well,

Mrs. Maureen Tuohy, Principal