

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Hoping you are coping well and enjoying your family these last weeks of summer. As regards the beginning of the school year and the fluidity of present circumstances, I would ask you to refer to my June 12th letter for basic information and check out the following updates:

- 1) All Parent meetings the first week of school will be taped and viewable at home on your designated Parent Night. Sept. 8th: Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, Kindergarten & 1st Grade.
Sept. 9th: Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5 and Sept. 10th: Grades 6, 7, & 8
The teachers will be prepared to give you specific information regarding their grade and subject area(s), if applicable. They will also emphasize the importance of taking the temperatures of the students before they leave the house. If a temperature is detected at the school site, you will be called to pick up your child at a secure supervised area near the Nurse's Office.
- 2) On-Site practices include: Grades K to 8: Temperature check for each masked student upon entering the building, followed by stopping at a hand-sanitizing station, and proceeding to his/her homeroom (cohort) where the mask may be removed and placed in a personal zip-lock bag. Teachers will direct the students in their cohorts to the routine they are expected to follow regarding safe distancing and frequent sanitizing. That would be in the homeroom/cohort: before & after snack, before & after lunch and at dismissal before putting on their masks. There will be full-time hallway monitors, one on each floor, who will politely enforce distancing, sanitizing at the stations outside the rest rooms, and traffic control at lunch break and dismissal. (Masks must be worn when the students leave the classroom at any time, e.g. for the rest room, gym, lunch break outdoors with their cohort, dismissal, etc.) Pre-K students will be directed to their modulars with a parent who will lovingly deposit the masked child at the door where the above entry procedures will take place gently with assistance from the teachers and aides. All water fountains will be securely covered and deactivated. Students are to bring sports water bottles to school for necessary hydration. These bottles should be sturdy, size/oz. appropriate for their age, and with each student's name and homeroom.
- 3) Teachers in specialized subjects, e.g. Technology, Gym, Science/Reading Labs, etc. have been given directives for their specific areas and will guide their students accordingly, ever-mindful of distancing and sanitizing.
- 4) **If you are considering a Virtual Learning experience for your child(ren) in Grades 1 to 8, please read and complete the attached form from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for each child and return by August 14th.** Also know that your decision will be in play for the entire First Trimester. Circumstances after that period will determine the procedures of the remaining Trimesters. All students, On-Site or Virtual, are required to wear their school uniforms daily, gym uniforms on their gym day or warm-weather days, or appropriate attire on a designated dress-down-day. Virtual Learning will not be an option for children in Pre-K3, Pre-K-4, and Kindergarten at this time. They are developing their social skills and are involved in numerous small group activities throughout the day which require the attention of the teacher and her aide. It is imperative that the developmental and personal growth of these children be encouraged, by nurturing them in a safe, comfortable, and caring environment.

- 5) Consideration for students who are involved in Virtual Learning, Honors or Basic Math, Learning Support, CORA, Catapult, Shalom, etc. requires adjustments in some homerooms (cohorts). We appreciate your understanding in this regard. As these students move about in a small group environment, their “mini-cohort” experience will strengthen them to master the subject areas that will contribute to their academic enrichment safely.
- 6) I will be in touch with PREP parents the next few weeks too help them navigate the school year in our Religious Education Program, mindful of the students receiving sacraments this year and understanding the various situations determined by the number of Public and Charter Schools our PREP students attend and their differing agendas.
- 7) You may continue to pick up yearbooks, or purchase them if you wish (\$20). I ordered extras hoping to give families a fond memory of the abbreviated school year. The cover celebrates the 50th anniversary of our Moon Landing and we also looked at the 100th Anniversary of the NFL throughout our OLC years of NFL visitors. OLC “celebrities” are included plus our First Responders, Law Enforcement, Military, Fire Fighters, Health Care Providers, etc. who we credit with looking out for us faithfully throughout our school years here at OLC! It is our biggest yearbook ever with 181 pages.
- 8) Both yearbooks and Uniform Drop-offs and/or Pick-Ups will take place the next few weeks in the Faculty Room (yearbooks) and uniforms outside the gym from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. weekdays.
- 9) A reminder that your Parent Communication folders may be picked up between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. from August 24th to September 8th and gym uniforms may be purchased at this time.
- 10) We have been stocking up on sanitizing products and exploring ways to facilitate the maintenance of our buildings in a responsible and safe manner. We are also hoping to increase our number of Chrome Books so that more of our students will have them to use individually, not shared.
- 11) Father Babowitch, Mrs. Costello, our Staff, Sisters, Families, Home & School, Parishioners, and I are all on board to make the best of this ever-evolving time in our lives. Your cooperation, support, and encouragement are always greatly appreciated. Please continue to check the school website for any changes that may have to take place. We use the playbook of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and are most grateful for their guidance. I am closing with the prayer of Pope Francis that we have been asked to pray with the students each day:

COVID-19 Prayer of Pope Francis

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You tell us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But You, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid.” And we, together with Peter, “Cast all our anxieties onto You, for You care about us.” Amen!

Take care, stay safe, and be assured of our prayers for you and yours.

With warm regards,

Sister Mildred