



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."

May 8, 2020

Dear OLS Families,

It is now official that we will continue Remote Learning through the end of the school year. While I know it is the correct response in order to keep everyone safe and healthy, it is still difficult to know that we will not have your children back in our classrooms for the remainder of the year. As you have heard me say since this pandemic began, we miss seeing them, we miss being with them, we miss teaching them, we just miss them. My heart especially goes out to our 8th graders, because even though we will celebrate your accomplishments at a graduation ceremony during the summer, I know it is not the same as it should have been. There are many activities that they were looking forward to, such as the class trip to Washington DC, the 8th grade Cap & Gown picture, the 8th Grade Social, and the 7th Grade Prayer Service honoring them, and all that has been changed. They are in my thoughts and prayers as they complete their final month at OLS.

With this decision to remain closed, there are many questions and decisions that need to be made in order to close out the school year. Remote Learning will continue through June 4th for the 8th grade, and June 5th for Pre K through 7th grade. The dates are now earlier than on the original calendar due to our unused snow days, which have been removed from the end of the school year. Grading will continue through these dates, and as stated in my previous letter, we are using our traditional grading scale. Report cards will be available the week of June 8th; once we have the exact date that will be communicated to you.

A schedule will be created so that students can safely enter the building to return textbooks, borrowed laptops and any other OLS materials, and pick up summer packets, personal belongings, and any books or projects still in their classrooms. We will use a staggered schedule using multiple doors since we are not be able to have everyone in the building at the same time. I will make sure that siblings are able to drop off/pick up materials at the same time. I ask for your patience as this schedule is created, and for your planning purposes, this will happen during the week of June 8th.

Please make sure your child(ren) is completing work on a timely basis, and if there are any concerns or issues, make sure you or your child reaches out to the

teacher. We still have 4 weeks of school to complete, and I realize by now everyone is weary of remote learning. Remember to have them get outside and move their bodies each day, take breaks between subjects, break projects into manageable pieces, and maintain a routine. Look at it this way – there is less remote learning in front of us than has already been completed! We can do this!!!

You have seen much correspondence over the past few months from our Superintendent, Mrs. JoAnn Tier. Earlier this year she announced that she is retiring on June 30, 2020. Mrs. Tier has been with the Diocese of Trenton for 20 years, the last 11 as our Superintendent. She has been a staunch proponent and supporter of Catholic education, and has been a wonderful advocate and guide to us. She will be missed, especially her calm demeanor, positive voice, and collaborative spirit. This week Bishop O’Connell announced her replacement, Dr. Vincent de Paul Schmidt. Dr. Schmidt is currently the associate superintendent of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and has served in various administrative capacities in Catholic schools in Ohio, Missouri and West Virginia. He will be moving to our area as soon as the pandemic limitations are lifted. He is well known for his dedication to Catholic schools and for promoting the well-being of all students. I look forward to meeting and welcoming him to our Diocese, and hopefully he will visit us in the fall.

I would like to thank each family that participated in the creation of the Teacher Appreciation Week videos. We had a difficult start to the week with the news of the continued Remote Learning, but those videos on Tuesday were the perfect way to lift everyone’s spirits. We will be posting them on our website for all to view – how happy we were to see those smiling faces! We would like to see more of those smiling faces, so I am asking a small favor of you! We felt a such a connection to everyone when we looked at those photos, so we had an idea to create an online “Blue Knights” photo album. Please email a picture of your child(ren) in either OLS spirit wear, a sports uniform or blue and white to Mr. Pasculli at lpasculli@olsschool.us. This would be fun and a great way to see as many students as we can.

There is much to do and decide over the next few weeks, and any news will be communicated to you through these weekly communications. If you have questions, please email me at mtuohy@olsschool.us. Thank you for all you continue to do and for the support you have given to the faculty and me. It is appreciated more than you could ever know! I wish all mothers a very Happy Mother’s Day, and hope you have a beautiful day with your family.

Be well and stay safe,

Mrs. Maureen Tuohy