



1 May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family are safe and healthy as you read this letter. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last few weeks. I am extremely appreciative of our students, parents, teachers, and staff for their positivity, flexibility and resilience during these trying times. A huge debt of gratitude also goes to all of our doctors, nurses, hospital employees, first responders, essential workers, and our state leaders for all they are doing to keep us safe and healthy.

As you know, digital learning for Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School continues in full swing. Our goal is to provide continuous education and practice for students while school is closed. We are working to eliminate as much stress as feasibly possible for students, parents, and teachers. While it is our responsibility to continue to educate our students, we also want to compassionately take into consideration the variety of difficulties that our families and employees are enduring during this time.

Thank you to those who provided feedback in our last parent survey. Here are some answers to the common questions:

- **STAR TESTING:** There will be no STAR Renaissance testing in the spring (decision from the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon)
- **CLASSWORK:** Teachers are working together to provide lighter instruction on Fridays. This will allow middle school students to catch up on their weekly assignments and allow more time for teachers to do small group instruction if needed. Teachers will also use this day to provide feedback to students and communicate with families.
- **ASSESSMENTS:** K-2 will continue to give assessments only on Fridays. This will allow parents to catch up on work given by our specialist teachers (art, music, PE, and Spanish) or just catch up on work given by the homeroom teachers. Please follow the directions of your individual homeroom teacher's instructions for turning in work.
- **REPORT CARDS:** Progress reports will be sent electronically on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Report Cards will be sent electronically Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. All report card irregularities will be documented to be have been caused by the COVID-19 closure.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING:** Middle school students will receive letter grades as if they were still physically present. Our middle school teachers have continued teaching to their curricular standards. Students are expected to turn in assignments and study for assessments as always. The rigor of middle school has not and will not slow down.
- **GRADING:** K-5 Teachers will assess mastery of standards to the best of their ability given the difficulties of digital instruction. During Digital Learning, we are not able to assess all standards, and some subjects and categories may remain ungraded on progress reports and report cards.
- **SPECIALIST GRADING:** K-2 grade students will receive an 'S' for satisfactory regardless of participation in all specialist classes unless the teacher feels strongly that they should receive an 'O'



for outstanding. Parents do not need to stress about finding time for all subjects. If you are struggling with time (most are) please concentrate on English Language Arts and Mathematics.

- **SPECIALIST GRADING 3-5:** Grades for Specialist classes in third through fifth grade will reflect the grade earned by March 13<sup>th</sup> or an improved grade.
- **RE-ENTRY:** The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon is working with Oregon superintendents and local government officials on a plan for re-entry. I will update the school community with any news or plans moving forward.
- **END OF YEAR PICK UP:** Please see the attached document with the end of year pick up schedule. All Chromebooks and chargers will be returned to the lab on each class's assigned date. Teachers and aides will begin to clean out lockers and desks for all students beginning the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>. Digital learning will continue through the last day of the school, June 12<sup>th</sup> (June 5<sup>th</sup> for Eighth grade students).

[End of Year Pick-Up Schedule](#)

I want to thank the school board (SAC) and Father John for believing and supporting me in my big plans of making OLL a school with advanced technology. If it were not for the support and for parents donating to technology, we would be in a much darker place when it comes to educating our students at OLL. Thanks to your investment in hardware and infrastructure, our students continue to receive learning opportunities while many students across the nation receive little to no instruction.

As a school community, one of our mottos has always been "*better together.*" In this light, we have decided to continue with our 2020 Jog-a-thon. Obviously, the Jog-a-thon will look different this year but we feel strongly that the Jog-a-thon is an event to positively unite our community, allow an opportunity for students to enjoy physical activity, and raise money for our school. This year we will have a virtual jog-a-thon with an on-line direct giving platform that will be easily accessible from your cell phone. More information about the 2020 Jog-a-thon will be sent to the community soon.

All money raised this year from the Jog-a-thon will go to tuition assistance. Your donations during the Jog-a-thon fundraiser will allow OLL to provide tuition assistance to families experiencing financial stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We can get through this together.

God Bless,

Corrine Buich

Principal