



November 9, 2020

Good Evening Parents and Staff,

On Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Brown announced a two-week pause on social activities to help stop the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Oregon. These “pause” measures will be in effect for two weeks, from Nov. 11 through Nov. 25, for Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Jackson, and Umatilla Counties. Today, additional counties were added to the two week pause list: Washington, Baker, Union, and Clackamas.

I participated in a ZOOM meeting today with the Oregon Department of Education. This effort/county pause **does not** directly impact school operations under ODE’s [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) guidance or the metrics for opening to in-person instruction, including the exception for [Limited In-Person Instruction](#). Schools in counties impacted by the pause must limit the capacity to a maximum of 50 people indoors (not including school students when school is in session), including staff, or the number of people based on a determination of capacity (square footage/occupancy), whichever is less. At Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School, we have created a K-8 schedule that follows the CDC mandate by following the 35 square feet per person of usable space.

**The Two-Week Pause measures include:**

- Urging all businesses (not schools) to mandate work from home to the greatest extent possible.
- Pausing long-term care facility visits that take place indoors to protect staff and residents.
- Reducing maximum restaurant capacity to 50 people (including customers and staff) for indoor dining, with a maximum party size of six. Continuing to encourage outdoor dining and take out.
- Reducing the maximum capacity of other indoor activities to 50 people (includes gyms, fitness organizations/studios, bowling alleys, ice rinks, indoor sports, pools, and museums).
- Limiting social gatherings to your household, or no more than six people if the gathering includes those from outside your household, reducing the frequency of those social gatherings (significantly in a two-week period), and keeping the same six people in your social gathering circle.

It has been shown that schools can mitigate risk of transmission when they implement the public health protocols in the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) guidance which OLL has successfully followed throughout the school year thus far. OLL also works closely with the Clackamas County health officials. Over the summer, OLL submitted its first blueprint to ODE for approval. As plans for a 2021 return of students to OLL continue to form, we will submit an updated blueprint before the Christmas break.

Returning our students to in-person instruction is a priority for the Governor, the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School. These pause efforts are designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help counties meet the metrics for in-person instruction. With this being said, OLL will continue to plan for our fourth and fifth grade students to begin full day in-person instruction starting January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. As of now, a full day of instruction is Monday-Thursday, 8am-1pm.

We will continue to plan to welcome our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students shortly after January 11<sup>th</sup>. Planning for the return of all middle school students and staff is a complex task. Middle school teachers will move between cohorts of students as previously planned in OLL's original blueprint. It is imperative that parents understand that if/when we have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in middle school during in-person learning, it is highly likely the entire middle school would have to quarantine for 14 days (as opposed to just one grade quarantining if OLL experienced a K-5 case). We would not be able to teach in-person if all middle school staff were sent home due to exposure. During the 14 day quarantine, middle school would revert back to Comprehensive Digital Learning at home. This issue weighs heavy on my heart because I know the complications this would cause for families and childcare planning. Please be sure to consider this if you choose in-person instruction as OLL continues to plan for in-person middle school instruction.

The Oregon Department of Education has published today's updates to the *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* document online. You can find it linked on our [school website](#).

As Clackamas County enters into the two week pause, we pray that our efforts may benefit the health and well-being of all Oregonians and ultimately the goal of returning students to the classroom. I pray that our students will continue to learn that despite the hardships this year has presented, we continue to live and work in service to others in our community. As we are reminded in 1 John 3:18, "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." While we may need to alter our actions yet again in the coming weeks, I am comforted by the faith I have in God our Father, and in the teachers hard at work at OLL preparing for the safe return of all students to our building.

God Bless,

Corrine Buich

Principal