

J.M.J.

June 12, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On behalf of Father John Babowitch, our pastor, Father Kirk, Mrs. Costello, and the staff at OLC, I thank you for your cooperation and courage these past few challenging months. We especially appreciate the Teacher/Parent/Partnering we experienced in this abbreviated school year. Your consistent encouragement, support and patient perseverance, will be remembered always and appreciated more than you know.

We are very grateful for the service of our retired teachers, Mrs. Gaspari (1B) & Mrs. Dunkleberger (2A) Miss McKeivitt (K4) who is leaving for health reasons (please keep her in your prayers) and Mrs. Maglio (2C) who is moving on to other responsibilities. We wish them the very best of blessings. Mrs. Denise Herens (formerly 8A) will remain on staff as an invaluable support teacher. We warmly welcome Mrs. Andrea Howard (2C) and Mrs. Erin Semet (K3) on board, to complete our staff for the coming school year.

Summer CARES will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> (closed July 3<sup>rd</sup>) until August 21<sup>st</sup> with mandatory directives. Camp Calvary will not be in session this Summer in order to allow the required number of CARES children who register and use the facilities to be protected with distancing, group size, hygiene, cleaning, etc. Your understanding is appreciated.

We expect to open in September and once we have received definitive directives from the Archdiocese, we will alert you to what lies ahead. With enrollment allowing us to down-size a bit (3 of every classroom from Pre-K 4 to Grade 8, with Pre-K-3 remaining at 2 classrooms) we will work over the summer to provide the distancing required in each classroom and move extra furniture to the classrooms no longer used – formerly 2C & 2D. Teachers in departmental grades will move and the students will remain in their classrooms. As we await further information, we will keep you up to speed.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will have their Graduation Masses at 9:30 (Families Aponik to McFadden) and 11:30 A.M. (McGinley to Wojtkielewicz) on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Both Masses will be live-streamed. (Specifics regarding seating of parents/step-parents/guardians only & graduates will be posted on the school website on Monday evening.)

Parents of children entering Pre-K3, Pre-K4, Kindergarten, and First Grade will receive letters from their Respective Teachers guiding them with specifics about when and where to meet at the beginning of school for orientation.

You will be notified on the school website when the Yearbooks arrive and the School Office will be open for you to pick them up at your convenience. (Delay resulting from plant implementing Covid-19 restrictions.) I am especially grateful for the assistance of our contributing editors: Mrs. Costello for proof reading, Miss Dee Kramer, who has mastered her computer expertise with awesome creativity, Mrs. Moore for the Home & School portion, plus the teachers and parents who contributed pictures of class activities, field trips, assemblies, events, etc.

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So far:

- **The first day of school for Grades K to 8 will be Wednesday, September 9th. Dismissal the first two days of school will be at 2:45. Students should bring snacks and lunches both days. On Friday dismissal will be at Noon. The School bell rings at 7:55 to begin classes. (Kindergarten students will have a staggered schedule their first day – not a full day - as they will have their own orientation.)**
- **Pre-K classes will begin on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.**
- **We ask that you pick up your Parent Communication Folder and purchase school gym uniforms, if you wish, at the school office on the weekdays, between 9 A.M. & 5 P.M. from August 23<sup>rd</sup> until September 8<sup>th</sup>. It will contain your school calendar/handbook, handouts from your child (ren)'s teacher(s), and other important information. (You may complete the paperwork at home and return it in the same folder before school begins. It is imperative that emergency cards are returned as soon as possible. TY!) Also, tuition for the months of July & August must be paid before you will be able to receive your Parent Communication Folder.**

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- The uniform swap (uniforms dropped off and/or picked up) will be held in the gym kitchen the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> until the beginning of school.
- **Continue to check the school website regularly [www.olcalvaryschool.org](http://www.olcalvaryschool.org).** I will be posting information and updates throughout the summer.
- **A Summer Reading List for Grades 3 to 8 will be posted on the School website**
- A reminder that *First in Math* (K to 8) is a highly regarded program that students can operate at home, as well as in school. Once the students are registered in the Fall, they can access the site and proceed at their own pace, to master skill after skill in a productive and entertaining manner.
- Please strongly encourage your children to use their vacation time productively. Discuss chore choices, insist on daily reading (possibly together as a family), review Math skills & times tables, etc. in addition to family fun time together. Please heed the concern of many in law enforcement who caution you to monitor the unsupervised “downtime” that many of our students will spend on the internet/cell phones, ipods, video games, Instagram, etc. during summer vacation. Also, as more students acquire sophisticated technology, they are not always sensitive or prudent in what they transmit, especially as regards their classmates, friends, family, etc. Facebook, Instagram, inappropriate apps, etc. get bolder and the messages/photos are more in tune with the pop culture that the media dispenses so freely and, unfortunately, without regard for the family values that many of us hold dear. As authorities weigh in on the use of Social Media and its impact on our children, Dr Karen Horowitz of Bradley Hospital in Rhode Island has this to say: “Video games can become an addiction leading to social isolation, poor school performance, and impaired sleep. It is possible that increased rates of depression in adolescents is related to a combination of increased use of electronics and sleep disruptions in already vulnerable individuals.” (Moderation in all things...)
- Also, please keep in mind the considerable financial benefits to yourself and the school when you purchase **SCRIP (gift certificates that earn you a percentage of money that can be used to pay school fees or high school tuition.)** A recent copy of SCRIP businesses is attached.
- BLOCS and Facts Management will finalize monetary awards in August, 2020 and you will be notified. (Applications for both are still being accepted.) Children’s Scholarship Fund recipients are being processed and will also be notified soon.

In closing, we are grateful for your understanding, support, and cooperation. (Mrs. Costello and I check our e-mail frequently, so feel free to touch base at any time [sr.mildred@olcalvaryschool.org](mailto:sr.mildred@olcalvaryschool.org) and [J.Costello@olcalvaryschool.org](mailto:J.Costello@olcalvaryschool.org)). Our prayers continue to be with you and yours. Relax, enjoy your family over the summer, arrange your weekends around the Mass schedule, stay safe, and know that you are very much appreciated.

With warm regards,

Sister Mildred