

March 16, 2020

OLMC Update: Day #3 School Closure

Dear Our Lady of Mount Carmel School families,

I hope you all had the opportunity to have some much-needed rest over the weekend. I know that for me, the slow, steady rain encouraged me to stay inside and felt calming and tranquil. Also, between the raindrops, I had a chance to work in the dirt of my garden and take a few hikes, as well as participate in virtual Mass with the Stanford Catholic Community. I cherished my time with my loved ones nearby and stayed connected to those who are very far away.

ChromeBooks or iPads

As families navigate setting up what I am calling ***Schoolhouse at Home***, many are finding that they need an extra tech device at home. I understand that when parents work from home, sharing their device creates an extra family burden. Please know that we have an ***abundance of ChromeBooks*** and iPads (for the younger students), and therefore we CAN LOAN you a ChromeBook for your child. Please send me a quick email if you want to come to OLMC to borrow a device.

Internet safety: Since your child will be working on their device outside our protective OLMC firewall, you DO need to monitor your child's Internet usage. You will want to ensure that they stay on the appropriate websites, and NOT go to websites inappropriate for children. This is the reality of the Internet.

Access to WiFi

Having reliable access to WiFi will be very important during our school closure. I sent out an email yesterday announcing Comcast's offer for 2 months of free WiFi. Please share this information with family and friends. (letter attached)

Communication & Resources

Thank you to my team of translators who are translating most of my messages into ***Español***. This is a perfect example of how the OLMC team spirit is flourishing!

Please read your email and view the FACTS portal regularly. Please check your spam folders for communications, and please add faculty names to your digital address book to ensure that important emails do NOT get lost in your spam folder.

I've created 2 webpages to centralize communication and resources:



OLMC COVID-19 Update where OLMC, ASF DCS, and San Mateo County communications and other important documents are posted:

<http://school.mountcarmel.org/school-closure/covid-19-updates>

OLMC Distance Learning where I will curate websites and resources for our ***Schoolhouse at Home:***

<http://school.mountcarmel.org/school-closure/distance-learning>

We will use 2 formats for video classes/conferencing:

ZOOM (<https://zoom.us>)

For the downstairs classes (TK-2nd grade) the communication will be primarily with the parent. Faculty will use ZOOM video conference for appointments and virtual class gatherings. Faculty will send out meeting appointments, and all parents, no matter what email/technology they use, should be able to connect via ZOOM.

GOOGLE HANGOUTS

Because our 3rd-8th grade students all have a Gmail accounts and OLMC is a GOOGLE Classroom School, it is easiest for our upstairs classes (3rd-8th) to use GOOGLE HANGOUTS to have video classes and appointments. Faculty will communicate with their students via the GOOGLE Classroom.

Supporting Children's Mental Health

OLMC is blessed to have two highly experienced and caring School Counselors: Jessie Barbato and Theresa Viglizzo. Please see the attached letter from them offering age-appropriate resources on COVID-19 and their schedule for student check-ins. Please know that both ***Mrs. Barbato and Mrs. Viglizzo are available by appointment:***

Monday: 8:00AM-3:00PM

Theresa Viglizzo: tviglizzo@mountcarmel.org

Wednesday & Friday: 8:00AM-3:00PM

Jessie Barbato: jbarbato@mountcarmel.org

The Facility is Safe

You can count on the ***Core Team*** being at school during school hours if you should need something from us. You can count on all Faculty being available during school hours curating distance learning curriculum, holding virtual office hours, and supporting parents and caregivers in their new role as at-home educators.

Attendance



Please continue to submit daily attendance by 10am daily. Mary McLinden will oversee attendance, and will follow-up with a phone call after 10am if she hasn't heard from a family.

Daily attendance link: <https://forms.gle/t7Jyqde8bgei7wz29>

Track Season Cancelled

As you can imagine, the Spring PPSL Track season has just been cancelled. We are not surprised, but we are disappointed. I want to thank **Coach Lopeti** and his team of coaches and volunteers for their many efforts to get a large group of OLMC and St. Pius athletes ready for the season. Please remember that is so important – especially now that children are at home and more isolated – to get them outside in the fresh air getting good exercise. This is essential for their physical and emotional wellbeing.

ASF DCS Updates

Archdiocese of San Francisco Superintendent of Schools, Pamela Lyons, sends daily updates about ASF DCS policies, resources, and specific information for all three counties in the Archdiocese: San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin. I will share updates as soon as I receive them

We are all in this together!
¡Estamos todos juntos en esto!

We will be a stronger community following this!
¡Seremos una comunidad más fuerte después de esto!

In solidarity,

Deborah Farrington, Ed.D.
Principal
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School