

March 17, 2020

OLMC Update: Day #4 School Closure

Dear Our Lady of Mount Carmel School families,

I woke up early to the peaceful sound of rain early this morning. Somehow, the raindrops seem to whisper: “***stay calm and stay inside.***” I know today is yet another very new experience for our entire society as we follow the shelter-in-place order. None of us has the training or experience to know just exactly what we should do; however, I have full confidence that we will figure this out day by day... together as an OLMC team and as a community of faith.

San Mateo County Order

In the detail of the San Mateo County order, it states in:

Section 10: Definitions and Exemptions:
Subsection f: For the purposes of this Order, “Essential Business” means:
Article xi: Educational institutions — including public and private schools, colleges, and universities — for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;

San Mateo County Order:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/Files/Shelter%20in%20Place/Shelter%20in%20Place%20Order%2016%20March%202020.pdf>

The OLMC “Core Team” as we are now calling ourselves, will be at school. Feel free to continue to call school: **650-366-6127** or email: info@mountcarmel.org with your questions and concerns. If you need to come to campus for your distance learning needs, adults may enter the building.

The order also encourages exercise and healthy living. Why not walk to school, play on the yard, and then walk home? This might give your children a sense of comfort and much-needed fresh air.

Distance Learning for the Long Haul

We have learned much in these first few days of Distance Learning. We were all thrown into this without warning! ***I appreciate the extraordinary professionalism of my Faculty team!*** I believe you will all agree with me that our educators demonstrated their deep concern for your children’s well-being and ongoing learning in



these first few days of distance learning. Everyone pitched in, created various forms of distance learning content and delivery methods for the very large span of students at OLMC: from wee little 3-year old PreSchool students to emerging young adults in 8th grade.

Jen Bruzzone, Assistant Principal and Dean of Academic Life, and I will meet today to evaluate where we are and what we want to adjust moving forward. I realized over the weekend, as I saw the very real possibility of shelter-in-place, that our original effort to provide two weeks of distance learning had a very different objective than our current reality of many, many weeks of distance learning.

I understand that parents who are juggling their at-home responsibility of being the primary educators is incredibly challenging alongside their professional responsibilities for their demanding jobs. This is truly a time when parents being stretched too thin.... I hear you and the OLMC Faculty team will do our best to support you! Ms. Bruzzone and I – along with our team of educators – will do some serious thinking and planning. Please be patient with us and stay tuned for more on these discussions.

ChromeBooks and iPads

We have ChromeBooks and iPads to lend out.

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.

Supporting Children's Mental Health

Reminder: 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

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.

If it's easier for you, please call Mrs. McLinden at **650-366-1051** to record your child's attendance.

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

ASF DCS Updates

In the communication from ASF DCS Superintendent, Pamela Lyons, she did not give a return to school date. I will continue to pass on information from the Archdiocese as soon as I receive it.

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