

March 18, 2020

OLMC Update: Day #5 School Closure

Dear Our Lady of Mount Carmel School families,

Once again, the OLMC Core Team was at school on Day #1 of shelter-in-place ensuring that we are delivering what I am now affectionately calling "Schoolhouse at Home". I empathize with the challenges that each family is now facing, and I honor the commitment that you are making to ensure that your children feel loved, safe, and cared for in their many needs. Truly, the OLMC Core Team is at school and the larger Faculty and Staff team are at their virtual classrooms, and we are here to support you!

Please 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 San Mateo shelter-in-place order also encourages exercise and healthy living. Now, more than ever, I encourage you to walk or bike 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!*

Jen Bruzzone, Assistant Principal and Dean of Academic Life; Christopher Lane, Director of Technology, Facilities, and Safety; and I met yesterday to discuss distance learning for the long haul. We have a plan in place for the next few days to coordinate, document, and train faculty. Stay tuned for more specific information.

Friday OLMC Holiday!

We previously scheduled this Friday, March 20th as an OLMC holiday. I am sure you will all agree that this is much needed, even more than we originally realized! In addition to the Friday holiday, I am announcing an **Early Dismissal at 12pm/noon on Thursday, March 19th**. The Core Team and all full-time Faculty and Staff will have a virtual meeting starting at 12:30pm. We will use this time for important coordination and training.



Please encourage your children to continue to work diligently today and tomorrow morning; and then at noon on Thursday, please start your 3-day weekend.

ChromeBooks and iPads

We have ChromeBooks and iPads to lend out. Do not be shy. We want to ensure that all families have access to the distance learning for each student.

Supporting Children's Mental Health

Please remember 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

On a Personal Note

I want to share with you a few stories from my family. Ann, my 90-year old mother who lives independently in San Jose, has changed her daily morning walking routine to a twice-daily schedule since her senior center exercise classes closed. My sister, Barbara, a teacher in in San Jose who is now teaching from home, is doing any necessary grocery shopping for Mom, so that she can avoid any contact with others. My husband, Professor Amado Padilla, has been delivering school lunches since Monday to PAUSD students who receive free/reduced lunch service. My daughter, Dr. Daphne, an ER doctor at UPenn in Philly had to be briefly quarantined, but is now back at the hospital on the front lines treating patients in the ER. Dr. D will start working to swab patients as soon as Philly and the National Guard complete their pop-up, drive-thru COVID-19 clinic. My son, Rocky, is completing his Ph.D. on radiation oncology work at home since the University of Michigan recently closed. My step-son, Diego, shut his restaurant in Sacramento and will continue to serve take-out food as needed by the community.



My family is spread across the country, so we all planned to gather in Utah during Easter vacation. This gathering will not happen, and I miss my children dearly. Nonetheless, I have the privilege to know that my family is safe and doing valuable work in their communities. I send my blessings to each one of you and to your families, near and far.

We are all in this together! iEstamos todos juntos en esto!

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

In solidarity,

Deborah Farrington, Ed.D.

Principal

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School