



April 1, 2020

OLMC Update: Day #14 School Closure

Dear Our Lady of Mount Carmel School families,

Good morning! Thank you to all the students who have risen to the challenge of distant learning! I have received many stories of students getting organized in their new reality, settling into their new OLMC SchoolHouse at Home, and adapting and learning in meaningful ways. A child's resilience is extraordinary! Thank you to the parents who are now the at-home Teachers' Assistants juggling more jobs than anyone could have imagined possible. I appreciate our two Monday parent ZOOM Open Houses when we connected as an adult community, and I heard meaningful feedback to implement to keep moving our educational model forward. And, a very hearty thank you to our OLMC Faculty who have transformed their teaching models, literally overnight; are balancing similar professional and personal demands of shelter-in-place; and who have remained focused on and committed to their OLMC students. On this first day of April, we have much to celebrate!

Most of you have heard the announcement from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at the California Department of Education. As a school within the Archdiocese of San Francisco, I await decisions and announcements from the Archbishop and the Department of Catholic Schools. I send those out as soon as I receive them.

OLMC Morning Assembly

We had a wonderful experience last Monday with our first OLMC Virtual Morning Assembly! With our free version of ZOOM, we were limited to 100 participants. We have upgraded to the PRO version, which will allow 500 participants. (Please see video on our Distance Learning webpage.)

We will have another assembly on Friday morning at 8am to make up for those who were disappointed on Monday. Stay tuned for that link.

OLMC Distance Learning Guide

Our OLMC Distance Learning Guide is an important communication that is our anchor of consistency and communication. I am proud that we were amongst the first school in the Bay Area to offer such a guide. Now that we are in Phase #3 *Let's Enrich This!*, the Guide has a schedule for all 11 grade levels, including most of our enrichment classes, ZOOM codes, and Pro Tips for Digital Students. Note that this Guide is ever-changing if we find an error or conflict. Please refer to the Guide posted on our webpage for the latest, most accurate version: <http://school.mountcarmel.org/school-closure/OLMC-distance-learning>



I am proud to say that we have worked out the complex schedule magic to ensure that there are no conflicts for grade-level students or teachers, and that our core subjects as well as our many enrichment classes are flourishing.

Please know that OLMC Faculty are in compliance with COPPA, CCPA, and FERPA safeguards that ZOOM has implemented and settings that are recommended for safety.

OLMC Financial Assistance

I am very proud of the robust financial assistance that OLMC has historically offered. Funding comes from three independent sources: The BASIC Fund, the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and OLMC. I am specifically proud of the advancements I made last Spring when more applicants than ever applied with accuracy, completeness and met third party deadlines. These practices enabled our families to receive more funding from outside sources than ever before, thus facilitating families' ability to finance their child's Catholic OLMC education. Additionally, I created an OLMC Financial Assistance Policy that is data-driven for transparency and a Committee to make decisions based on "blind" fairness across the many family circumstances. All this information is on our website: <http://school.mountcarmel.org/admissions/tuition-assistance>

The ravages and risks of COVID-19 and county and state mandated shelter-in-place orders have created a financial landscape that is unprecedented in our American and global history. We are only beginning to understand the financial impact that this will have on families, businesses, and our larger economy. I encourage all who might need assistance to afford OLMC education for 2020-2021 to please submit an application to TADS by the April 15th deadline. Also, if you are at all close to the financial requirements for The BASIC Fund, please complete an application and you will be placed on their wait list. All information and links can be found on our Tuition Assistance webpage.

Enrollment for 2020-2021

If you have not completed your Enrollment packet for 2020-2021, we would love to receive that at your earliest convenience. As announced, but is worth repeating, if you would like your Enrollment Fee spread out or held for later payment, we can accommodate parent requests. Please contact me at enrollment@mountcarmel.org and I can make arrangements per your financial needs.

Keeping our Students Learning

Please be sure your students' devices are working properly for their distance learning. If you should find that you need an additional ChromeBook (we have oodles to share!) or you need an iPad (we are more limited, but have some to share), please contact Mr.



Lane (clane@mountcarmel.org) to schedule a time to pick up a proper device for your student.

Thank you to parents who let us know when a link is broken or a code is incorrect. Thank you for the many suggestions for enhanced learning. Our Leadership Team and Faculty are problem-solving 24/7!

Please see the announcement from Elevate Math Tutoring, offering free tutoring to students in need.

Attendance

Please submit daily attendance by 10am daily

- Daily attendance link: <https://forms.gle/t7Jyqde8bgei7wz29>
- It is also posted: <http://school.mountcarmel.org/school-closure>
- Please call Mrs. McLinden at **650-366-1051** to record your child's attendance.



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