



August 5, 2021

Dear Old Mission School Parents,

The teachers will begin the new school year next Wednesday with meetings, prayer, training, team building, and classroom/lesson prep. We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to celebrating and learning together with our students and families.

A few reminders before the **students begin on August 18th**:

Please read the Parent/Student Handbook found under the “Parents” tab (Handbook) on our website (www.omsslo.com). Any additions/changes from the previous year are in blue font. This year all students, teachers, and staff will be required to wear masks indoors until further notice; masks are not required outside. Remember that all students will be on a minimum day schedule for the first three days of school and all are in uniforms. We will also have restricted access to campus for anyone other than students and staff, so students should be dropped off between 7:45 and 8:00 in front of the main campus (please DO NOT pull onto Mill St. for drop-off). There should be no parking in the drop-off zone to keep everything flowing smoothly. The [drop-off and dismissal schedule](#) is the same as last year. We will have all students assemble on the turf for our morning assembly by 8:00 each morning.

During the second week of school, we will host our Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 25th via Zoom from 5:00-6:00. This will be an opportunity for you to meet and check in with the classroom teachers.

We will be offering ASA this year on a drop-in basis. Sign in and sign out will be tracked and billed through FACTs online. If you would like to have your child attend ASA this year, please fill out the forthcoming survey from Mrs. Lock to help us identify staffing and scheduling needs as circumstances may have changed since the spring.

Our Masses this year will be celebrated similarly to last year, at least to begin with. We will have three to four classes each week on the turf and other students will participate in the classrooms through YouTube. We are able to have all students attend Mass at the church with masks and will work with Fr. Kelly on a schedule; eventually, we will probably have some Masses on our turf and some at the parish.

We will be kicking off our first fundraising event, the Walk-a-thon, in early September. Get those walking shoes ready and make your list of potential sponsors. There will be some fun incentives to reach our school goal. It should be similar to last year’s event. We are looking for more team members and someone willing to train in with Charlotte as chair for the coming years. Please look for more information to come from our organizing team!

Our First Friday birthday celebrations will begin September 3rd. We will celebrate August and September birthdays. Every First Friday of the month that we are in session follows a minimum day schedule, and in addition to birthday celebrations, these are Spirit Wear days for students and staff.

The Old Mission Catholic School community is dedicated to the development of socially responsible citizens who are spiritually enriched, academically empowered, and morally accountable for their actions.

Please join me in welcoming Ray Van Es as our new fourth-grade teacher. Attached is a brief biography to get to know him. I've also attached several other important and informative documents. Please be sure to read them.

This year we undertake our self-study for accreditation renewal. Mrs. Barket is our self-study coordinator and we will be asking for your help through a number of surveys and participation in committees to complete the extensive self-study process. Your input is important and appreciated. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Once again, as a school community, we will be focussing on gratitude and joy this year. Each of us impacts the world around us with every word and action. Let's strive to make every encounter an opportunity to increase the love in our world. With an effort to cultivate gratitude and joy, we will move our community forward in a positive way. We will increase kindness and care for others and bring positivity into a world that sorely needs it.

On behalf of the teachers and staff, let me express our profound gratitude at the privilege it is to serve such a wonderful community of families.

In Christ,

Shirley Gray

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