

July 31, 2020

Dear OLW Families:

The countdown to the first day continues. The building has been without students for far too long.

As always, please read this communication carefully. In this e-mail you will find the following:

- New information regarding events leading up to the first day of a school
- A VERY short survey that I am asking EVERY family to PLEASE complete to gather information needed to finalize reopening plans
- Answers to some of the more frequently asked questions received since last week's email
- A few minor adjustments to last week's plan based on new changes to state and archdiocesan guidelines.

NEW Information

1. Traditionally informational packets with class assignments would be distributed the weekend of August 8th. This year we will be sending information home electronically. The creation of class lists has been more involved than in past years, so we will need a few extra days to finalize those. Electronic packets will be sent via email by **Wednesday, August 12th**. For those of you unable to print hard copies of documents that need to be filled out, we will have them available at the Meet the Teacher event on Monday, August 17th.
2. **Meet the Teacher will run from 9-3 on Monday, August 17th**. A sign up genius will be sent out to families on Thursday, August 13th. Each student can sign up for 15 minutes with the teacher to say hello, see the classroom, and drop off school supplies. Additional details about this event will be included with the sign up genius on the 13th.
3. **Testing Day will take place August 18th** from 8-3. A sign up genius for this event will also be sent on August 13th. Students are encouraged to sign up for a 30 minute reading assessment with their homeroom teacher (1st-5th) or ELA teacher (6th and 7th grade). If spots fill up, or you are unable to attend, your child will be assessed during the first few weeks of school. Students in 6th or 7th grade that have tested at an 8th grade level or higher in the past will be notified that they do not need to sign up for this testing.

SURVEY – PLEASE COMPLETE!

ALL families are asked to complete this VERY important and SHORT survey by midnight on **Sunday, August 2nd**. This information is needed to assist in plans for reopening. In this survey, you will share your intentions for the start of the school year so we can better gauge current interest of families in a remote learning option. I understand that for some of you your plans may change and be dependent on what the remote program looks like exactly, but I hope to gain at least an early indication of EVERY families intentions. I am also looking to gain a better sense of how many families are planning to make use of before and after school care this year.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MM76MLN>

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

Uniforms and Masks

- No Uniform Today (NUT) cards from 2019-2020 **will be** honored this school year.
- Students should wear their traditional uniform bottoms (shorts, skirts, skirts) with their solid color t-shirts in August and September.

- Masks do not need to be uniform colors. If a student's mask is considered distracting, they will be asked to remove it and be given a new mask to wear for the remainder of the day. Distracting is less about color and design and more meant to discourage any that may be considered overly political or containing messaging that would distract the students' focus from learning.
- Face shields are not an approved substitute for masks.
- Teachers will be making use of outdoor space around the perimeter of our campus to take students outside for instruction when possible. This will help provide additional opportunities for mask breaks throughout the day.

Class Sizes

Maintaining small class sizes is a continued priority for OLW. This helps us to not only space out students to promote their health and safety, but to continue to offer the same quality of instruction that we pride ourselves on providing to our students.

Remote Learning

Many details about the remote learning plan are still being finalized. Just today, the Archdiocese approved some new options for remote learning that we are currently exploring. Completing the Intent Survey in this email will help in further developing OLW's remote learning plan. Due to current focus on the reopening of the school, any remote learning option will not start on August 19th and would be delayed until at least August 31st.

Preschool

Some preschool families have requested some additional guidance regarding our preschool programs this year. For most procedures, the preschool is held to the same requirements as the rest of the school. This is based on state and archdiocesan guidelines. Preschool teachers are currently meeting and working to determine exactly what preschool will look like this year! We may not know all the details yet, but I do know the teachers will be working hard to make sure that preschool is as fun, educational, and safe as possible! It may look a little different but the love, caring, and dedication will still be there!

Extra-Curricular Programs

Programs like band, robotics, and scholastic bowl will run this year. They just may look a little different than we are used to seeing in the past. Due to current gathering restrictions we will be unable to hold concerts or a musical. . All of the teachers associated with these programs are still dedicated to providing enrichment for our middle school students and are using their creative talents to come up with new opportunities.

Revisions to the Reopening with Trust Plan shared on July 24th.

As stated last week, we can expect changes as recommendations from health officials and the state change.

The criteria for returning to school after presenting symptoms is now as follows:

- 24 hours fever free without medication
- General improvement of all symptoms by 75% or more
- 10 days of isolation have passed since symptoms appeared
- Doctors Note

Cohorts will be quarantined and complete remote learning for 14 days once a single student in a cohort tests positive.

The PDF of the reopening plan will be updated and shared in the near future, so you have all of the information in one place. For those of you that have not seen the original reopening plan, it can be viewed using the link below.

[OLW - Reopening With Trust Plan \(2\).pdf](#) (original version from 7/24/30)

Replies to this email will be sent to the reopeningquestions@olwschool.org email and not my school email. Responses to general inquiry will be shared in next week's communication.

Please submit any new or additional questions to reopeningquestions@olwschool.org.

Next week's communication will have more details about remote learning based on information gathered from today's survey.

Have a good weekend!

Stay safe,
Mr. David Wood