

March 12, 2020

Dear OLW Parent:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is pushing schools in many parts of the country into uncharted waters. The speed with which COVID-19 has spread, and the uncertainty that still surrounds it, have made for an unprecedented situation.

OLW continues to monitor developments involving COVID-19 (coronavirus) as the health and well being of our school and parish community is of the utmost importance. The Archdiocese of Chicago and Office of Catholic Schools is providing regular updates as they continue to be in close communication with health department officials. Information continues to come in at a rapid pace and will likely change quickly in the coming days.

The possibility of school closures is on many people's minds. In the event of school closure information will be sent out via School Messenger. At this point it is difficult to predict when a closure may be implemented and how long it may last. Parents should begin to make plans in case of closure. While the school is currently open during the day, the Northwest Catholic Conference has made the decision as a group to suspend all sporting events (practices and games) until March 30th and will reevaluate this decision after Spring Break.

OLW does have an e-learning plan that was developed in August, and approved with the Archdiocese of Chicago, to be used in the event of school closure. Each teacher will communicate directly with their classes each day to provide the activities for students to complete. Students have utilized the online platforms (Seesaw, ClassDojo or Google Classroom) within their classrooms already so students should know how to access the appropriate content. Some teachers may also send home other materials for the students to have on hand as well. Should you have any questions or issues during this time of transition with the online platforms, you may contact your child's teacher directly, or the Curriculum Coordinator, Julie Hoeper (jhoeper@olwschool.org), to assist you.

In the meantime, OLW continues to follow the recommendations made by the Archdiocese of Chicago to all principals.

- Provide plenty of hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes and tissues through their offices and classrooms.
- Clean and disinfect transmission points (doorknobs, light switches, desks, tables, hand railings, water fountains, etc.) regularly throughout the day.
- Ensure school maintenance staff has additional resources needed to increase sanitation/cleaning activities.

As we continue to monitor the situation, we will provide additional updates as needed. Let us continue to pray for the health and well being of all those impacted by this virus.

Sincerely,
Mr. David Wood