

OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL



In Faith and Love we build Christian Community

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March 27, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Ministry of Education and the Superintendent's Office of CISVA have provided guidance as to what the expectations are regarding the resumption of learning once the spring break ends. Schools are working now to put in place a plan for an alternate delivery of learning opportunities for students. I will present these guidelines, as well as some of our school's own local decisions, in a Q&A format below. There will be many more questions that will arise as we go through this process together and I ask for your patience as we work to get this organized and communicated to you.

Please review the attached letter which includes a very helpful set of frequently asked questions released by the Ministry of Education on March 27th.

For Essential Service Workers (health care workers and emergency responders)

If you have unaddressed childcare needs, please contact me directly. Please do NOT send children to school Monday, March 30th as we are not prepared at this time to host them.

If you have questions, please email me directly at office@myolosschool.com

Q & A for Parents Regarding Learning for the Remainder of the Year

1). *Will schools re-open on March 30th?*

Schools will reopen on Monday, March 30th for staff only. The Ministry of Education and CISVA have stated that parents should expect learning to commence within a week or two of that date. Because in-classroom learning has been suspended in the province how schools are to deliver education will take on some new forms and approaches. Staff are currently working on getting a comprehensive plan together and we will have these details to families by Wednesday, April 1st.

The Ministry of Education is expected to release a planning framework document for teachers on Friday, March 27th, which will provide support and direction for our school's plan. Our teachers will need some time to digest this framework and put it into practice by mid next week. In the meantime, our staff have already been working to anticipate the changes needed to ensure the continuity of learning for your child.

2). *How will teaching and learning take place when in-class instruction has been suspended?*

Learning for your child will be delivered in a variety of ways. We recognize that the methods used will need to be age appropriate and our teachers are working to ensure this for our students.

We already have e-learning in place:

- Grades K-4 are using See-Saw and will be enhanced with more direction from the classroom teachers
- Grades 5-7 are already using Google Classroom
- Also, live video feeds will be available soon as we are working with our Technology Team (Classmates) as well as our webpage programmers to have a variety of both synchronous (online and immediate feedback) and asynchronous (offline and flexible individual learning) happening for our students.

It will take time to work this out and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the logistics of how this will occur. The goal is not to replace the classroom experience, but to provide the best possible learning under these circumstances. We do not want learning to become a source of stress and conflict in the home and recognize that striking the right balance will take some time. Ultimately, it will be up to parents to determine when and how much work can be accomplished each day. This is an opportunity for all of us to work together to support our students. Our Lady of Sorrows staff will be available to do all they can to continue to provide the resources and expertise required for successful student learning.

3). *What materials and equipment will students use?*

We will send all the students resources home by Wednesday, April 1st during the scheduled Student – Led conference times. Details will be sent home on Monday, March 30th. Materials will be bagged and sealed with the student's name on it and wiped clean with sanitizers. Staff will be wearing gloves and no one with any symptoms of the Flu or of COV-19 virus in the last 2 weeks or having travelled will be permitted to be at school or interact with the materials or staff.

4). *How do we collect our child's personal items from school?*

Again, we are using the original Student – Led Conference times as a guide for families to pick up their belongings and materials as well as drop off the registrations packages for the 2020-21 school year. No cheques will be cashed until all families have instructed us to do so through the google forms document being emailed Monday, March 30th to all families, or by direct email to the Principal.

5). *Will students who receive learning support at school continue to receive support at home?*

Yes, there will be some form of support on-line at this time and through direct contact by the Learning Support Aides, however, we will be working on these details again later in the week.

6. *When can I expect to be contacted by my child's teacher?*

All students will be contacted by their Classroom Teachers on Monday, March 30th by 12 noon through their existing methods: See-Saw, Google Classroom, or emails.

7). *Will tuition be waived?*

The Ministry of Education has been clear that while in classroom learning has been suspended student learning continues. Our goal is to ensure that this takes place in as seamless a way as possible recognizing the challenges this presents for all concerned – parents, student and staff. We will continue to charge tuition to meet our financial obligations to staff and suppliers.

The tuition payments have been delayed until April 17th as we will be contacting each family through google forms or by email to address your concerns personally. If your financial circumstances have changed significantly as a result of COVID-19 and you are unable to pay your tuition, we will work with you on an appropriate plan to defer whole or in part. We are here to help. We do not want anyone to withdraw from the school should they be unable to pay tuition. Again, I will personally send a contact to each family in regard to:

- Financial Impact from COVID-19
- Technological needs for on-line leaning
- Support for Essential Service Workers- i.e. Childcare
- Learning support for students on I.E.Ps
- Other Parental concerns

8). *Will this impact First Communion and Confirmation dates?*

Students in Grades Two and Seven will continue preparation for receiving the Sacraments. Formal celebrations will be postponed until further notice from the Archbishop's office. Schools will communicate with pastors to determine how preparation will continue.

Again, hopefully these are the most common questions answered as we are most concerned with safety first, as well as the needs for our individual students and families of our wonderful Our Lady of Sorrows Community.

****Please visit our website for updates as well as www.olos.ca for live stream Masses and messages form Father Richard. You can also join the Our Lady of Sorrows Church on Facebook and our Instagram @ OLS Eagles. We may be apart physically, but we can still stay connected as a community!**

May God keep you all safe!

Sincerely,

P. Balletta
Principal