



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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Thank You Parents!

How can we ever thank you all for the amazing support you have shown OLLRCS!

Thank you for the following:

- Taking extra precautions to keep our students/staff safe & healthy.
- **Filling** our storage room w/ supplies!
- Selling 50/50 tickets.
- Encouraging your children to do their summer packets - it shows!
- Volunteering your time to help with gym, lunch, recess, library, etc.
- Keeping the flow of traffic and driving slowly in the OLLRCS parking lot.
- Supporting our dress code policy.

Most of all, thank you for trusting OLLRCS with your most precious gift, your child. Our staff absolutely adores each one of them. They are such amazing kids! Bravo to our parents who are doing an amazing job raising them!

20th Anniversary of 9/11

Many of our parents were about the same age as their children are today when the events of 9/11 occurred 20 years ago. Every class did age appropriate discussion/activities to teach the events of 9/11 in addition to praying for the safety of our country at Mass. We encourage parents to continue answering the many questions students may have concerning what happened that horrific day. Your parental perspective of this historical day may help your child to understand the importance that 9/11 is to our country. Thank you for co-teaching with us!



2021-22 School Calendar Link

STAR Track After School Tutoring

- STAR (Study, Think, Achieve, Reach) After school tutoring program until 4:30pm.
- Sign-up forms, sent home in your family packet, must be completed and submitted in order for your child to attend. Please contact the office if you need a new form.
- Sign-up forms are due Tuesday, September 14th.
- Program will be every offered every Tuesday and Thursday, starting September 16, 2021.



Academic Progress

4th-8th grade students should now have their grades posted on-line. Follow these links in the FACTS family portal to access their progress in each subject.

- Family Portal
- Student
- Grades

Feel free to email your child's teacher concerning their academic progress/behavior.

- PreK: abawek@ollrcs.org
- Y5/Kindergarten: kpacella@ollrcs.org
- 1st Grade: rkruse@ollrcs.org
- 2nd/3rd: ksmith@ollrcs.org
- 3rd-5th: akoupal@ollrcs.org
- 6th-8th: amckuen@ollrcs.org
- Secretarial staff: ollsc@ollrcs.org
- Principal: mjohnson@ollrcs.org

School Reminders

- Please have your child bring 1-2 water bottles every day. Thank you!
- We need your help with practice tying shoes. Helping your child tie their shoes twice a day will likely result in them being able to tie their shoes on their own by Christmas. Their teachers are helping them learn also.
- PreK-1st graders: Please remember to return your class folders every day. This is how our teachers communicate with parents daily. Thank you!
- Please contact the office or send a note with your child for all drop off/pick up information. Please do not email or text teachers - they do not always get a chance to check their phones/emails while teaching multiple grades/subjects.
- Our lunch help is assisting 31 extra students this year in our two 25 minute lunch periods. To help them out, please keep foods that need to be heated in a microwave to a minimum and we ask that you do not send any items to be microwaved at all on Pizza Thursdays.

Mask guidance from CMDHD, MMDHD, DHD#10 & MDHHS

Below is the latest update on mask recommendations from the health department. Attached are two documents.

1. The MI Safer School Guidance are new recommendations for a modified quarantine from MDHHS (state health department) allowing fully masked students that were exposed to fully masked COVID infected students in the classroom to stay in school if they test negative prior to attending school.
2. The Modified quarantine CMDHD MMDHD DHD#10 guidance are our recommendations at the local health department level for modified quarantine for student and staff, masked and unmasked, in any school setting, to stay in school with or without testing based on the situation.

[MI Safer School Guidance Link](#)

[Modified Quarantine CMDHD MMDHD DHD#10 Link](#)

To summarize: If you choose to have your child wear a mask full time while in the building and is exposed, they are much less likely to be required to quarantine for the 14 days by the health department.

Help Needed

WE NEED HELP EVERY DAY TO SERVE/MONITOR LUNCH AND RECESS. THE CREW WE HAVE HAD THESE LAST 2 WEEKS HAVE BEEN AMAZING, ESPECIALLY WITH A 62% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT THIS YEAR! THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO BE WITH YOUR CHILD AND EARN SERVICE HOURS. MANY THANKS TO JENNY MCCLELLAND, OUR LUNCH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR FOR ORGANIZING LUNCH/RECESS HELP! PLEASE CALL/TEXT JENNY AT 989.387.2608 TO COORDINATE LUNCH HELP. THE LUNCH/RECESS TIME SLOTS BEGIN AT 11:00 AM AND FINISHES AT 12:30PM. ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST COMPLETE THE ICHAT BACKGROUND CHECK FORM (AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE) AND AN ONLINE VIRTUS TRAINING. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 989-366-5592 WITH QUESTIONS ON HOW TO VOLUNTEER TO EARN SERVICE CREDIT!

[VIRTUS TRAINING LINK](#)

Student Council

Student council positions for 2021-22 school year will be determined soon. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. McKuen will be handing out information next week to all interested students in 5th-8th grades. Students need to prepare a speech to be elected by their peers to hold a position on student council.

Faith Formation & Youth group Information

Sign ups for both Faith Formation (Confirmation & Communion) and 6th-8th grade Youth group will be held after Mass on September 19th around 10:00 am at OLL church. Weekly meetings for Faith Formation will begin October 3rd beginning with Mass at 9:00 AM and ending at 11:00AM. We will continue to meet every other Sunday of each month except for Holidays. Please contact the office for more information at 366-5592. A youth group schedule will be given at the time of sign-ups on September 19th. Click link below for more information.

[Faith Formation Info.](#)



A Message from our Home and School Committee

All families are required to serve 100 approved service hours in addition to paying their tuition. Unfulfilled service hours are charged \$12/hour at the end of April, 2022.

HOW TO MEET YOUR 100 SERVICE HOURS

1. SELL 50/50 TICKETS (2 tickets =1 service hour)

There are 4 area churches we can sell to. To sign up to sell at a church, click on this link:

[CHURCH SIGN UP](#)

Please review the available slots and click on the button to sign up.

2. Send out donation letters to family or friends. Your child will bring them home w/instructions next week.
3. Sign up to help at lunchtime and earn 1.5 service hours per lunch.
4. Sign up to make follow up phone calls to businesses that were sent letters. (Must be done from school)
5. Sign up to organize the uniform closet, supply closet and/or help with maintenance. If you have any questions or need any help please feel free to contact me.

Liz Hoogerhyde, President of Home and School, 989-915-0006 or help4usw@yahoo.com

"Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7

Arrival & Dismissal

Thank you for your patience with arrival/dismissal time. It will take some time for parents/staff to get the routine down, but it will continue to get better and faster. To make traffic flow better for arrival and dismissal, please enter from the EAST by the Chinese restaurant/Church side and exit out the WEST by the school/Dollar store side of the building. We have vehicles driving against the flow of traffic and driving too fast out of the parking lot at dismissal time. Please be careful, hold your young child's hand all the way to the car. If you would like to stay in your vehicle for dismissal, please arrive around 3:15ish and enter from the East. We will recognize most of you and send your child out to you. If you are a new family, a staff member may come to your window to make sure we are sending the correct child with you. Thank you again for driving safe in the parking lot and for your patience as we get the routine down.



OLL Bus Info

- The OLL bus MUST leave the St. Micheal's parking lot no later than 7:30am in order to get to school on time. As the weather gets colder, the bus will have to leave at 7:25 in order to get all the little ones unpacked, take their boots off, and down to the gym for morning prayer on time.
- No OLL Bus service Thursday afternoon on Sept. 16th.
- Please send your child with a mask for the bus. This is a State mandate for every child that rides the bus in Michigan.
- We are still looking for a bus driver to help Mr. Duncan out in the fall/winter, as he will need many days off. We are diligently asking every contact we have, but there is a nation wide shortage of bus drivers. Please continue to pray for a bus driver and continue to spread the word that we are in need of a part time bus driver for an amazing group of students!



Piano Lessons Availabe!

Mrs. Laur, our music teacher, will be offering private piano lessons on Thursday afternoons. Lessons are \$15.00 per 30-minute lesson (books are an additional cost). Please call Mrs. Laur at 989-3660123 or email at cindyglaur@gmail.com to set up a lesson time.



OLLRCS Homework

Students should **NOT** be bringing home a lot of homework, unless they were using their class time unwisely or have been absent. The only "homework" recommendation we have is for **ALL** students to **read every night for 15 minutes**. Just 15 minutes a night adds up to 91.25 additional hours of reading a year, which will make a huge difference in their reading and comprehension. Also, 1st-3rd graders are encouraged to spend 5 minutes 3-4 nights a week solving addition & subtraction flash cards and 3rd-8th graders multiplication flash cards every night until fluent. Please do not do more than 5 minutes or students may become frustrated.



UPCOMING DATES!

- Sat, Sept. 11th: 20th Anniversary of 9/11
- Tues, Sept. 14th: STAR Track After School Tutoring Permission Forms due
- Tues, Sept 14th: Home & School Meeting @3:20pm (Day-care available)
- Thurs, Sept. 16th: Pizza Day - pay through FACTS
- Thurs, Sept. 16th: No OLL Bus for dismissal
- Thurs, Sept. 16th: STAR Track Tutoring until 4:30pm - you must have permission slip signed
- Fri, Sept. 17th: Student Mass - No shorts please
- Fri, Sept. 17th: Constitution Day
- Tues, Sept. 21st: STAR Track Tutoring until 4:30pm
- Wed, Sept. 22nd: Student Mass - No shorts please
- Thurs, Sept. 23rd: STAR Track Tutoring until 4:30pm
- Fri, Sept. 24th: Full day-make up for 1st week

Dear OLLRCS Parents,

We have had a terrific start to our school year.

Many of our staff are saying this is the best start they have ever had. Even our youngest students are already showing so much independence in knowing the morning routine of saying good bye to their parents, hand sanitizing, putting their stuff in their locker, and going to the gym for morning prayer. K-8th grade students are all taking the national NWEA tests in Math, English, Reading and Science this month. This test shows teachers student strengths and weaknesses. We will test again in May of 2022 to see their progress. Last year, we were amazed at the growth students showed. Thank you so much to the many parents that got their children to do portions or complete their summer packets from last year. We are finding a very small or no "summer slide" in student learning. This allows our teachers to pick up where they left off last year when students need minimal review. Bravo to our students and parents! Our staff will be wearing masks in common areas and we hope you consider having your child do so as well. It will make the transition to full mask wearing much smoother, if we are mandated at a later date. In closing, I am so grateful for your trust in OLLRCS. It is truly a joy to have parents, students, and staff working together to provide the best educational experiences for our students!

May God continue to keep our OLLRCS community safe & healthy,

Michelle L. Johnson
OLLRCS Principal

