



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School exists as a ministry of the Catholic Church to proclaim the Gospel message. Recognizing that each person is a unique creation of God, we endeavor to provide a strong spiritual, academic, and emotional foundation enabling students to realize their full potential."

Dear OLL Families,

I hope you are experiencing a joyful, healthy, summer vacation. As you may have heard per Governor DeSantis' address last week and per our Superintendent of Schools, Henry Fortier, schools will re-open in this fall. There is so much uncertainty about this pandemic and many are still anxious about how next year will look, so I wanted to give you an update to help ease some of the anxiety. As we continue to learn more from healthcare professionals and seek guidance from our Diocesan office, we continue to plan for fall with a proactive approach to keeping our students healthy and safe. While many of us are ready to be back to "normal", please understand we may have to open under the "new normal" while we transition back to the normal we all long for at OLL.

School will start on August 12th. We are excited to welcome those students that are comfortable returning to campus, to join their teachers and classmates in their designated classrooms for quality instruction, while providing a live-stream option for those that choose to participate remotely. As mentioned in Mr. Fortier's letter, choosing to participate virtually means that a student will be participating with the class via live-stream for the entirety of the academic school day and will forgo the ability to attend school masses or participate in extra-curricular activities in person. As long as the virtual option is available, we will continue to live-stream our school masses. Choosing the virtual option initially does not mean that a family is committed to that option for the entire school year. As conditions evolve, families may contact me to express their desire to have their child transition back to on campus learning. That said, switching back and forth between the two options on a daily or weekly basis is not permitted.

Initial procedures for re-opening school:

- All students will be dropped off in carline. Students will have their temperatures checked prior to exiting their vehicles or entering the school building each morning.
- Our current drop-off and dismissal procedures for parents will likely slightly change but we are working on those procedures at this time. Your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated
- Wearing masks by students and staff will be optional. If choosing to wear a mask, the mask may not have any logos or messaging.
- Students will report directly to their homeroom classes. We will no longer have a holding area in front of the Statue of Mary.
- School mass will be delayed for the first couple of weeks. Once started, we will be attending on a rotating grade basis. For example, Grades 7-8th may attend the first school mass, Grades 5th & 6th may attend the second week and so on. We will publish the schedule. The rest of the school will have mass live streamed into their classrooms. We will announce the mass schedule at the beginning of the school year. Same protocol that is required for weekend masses will apply to school masses. Parents of the grades attending that week's mass will be invited to attend following the safety protocols issued last school year. School masses will continue to be live-streamed to the classrooms and school community.
- In order to minimize exposure, only students and staff will be permitted to enter the school building. Since volunteers/visitors will be denied access to the school initially, the requirement for volunteer hours will be postponed until further notice.

- Classrooms will be provided extra supplies of sanitary wipes and hand sanitizer.
- Janitorial and maintenance staff will assist with sanitizing the classrooms and playground equipment routinely throughout the day.
- Classrooms with student desks will be arranged in single rows with all students facing the front of the classroom. In the cases where tables will be used, each workspace will have partition to help minimize exposure to others.
- Students will travel to their Specials classes (PE, Art, Music, etc.) with sanitization procedures implemented between each class.
- Changing classes in middle school will be reduced to fewer times each day, instead of six. Student desk will be sanitized prior to changing classes.
- Classes will alternate use of the hall and additional lunch spaces in order to maintain reduced capacity and strategic distancing protocols. Sanitizing of the hall will occur between lunches.
- Lunches that are ordered will be served in individual containers and will be delivered to the student's seat. Students are welcome to bring a bag lunch as well.
- Students will still participate in regularly scheduled recess. To reduce the number of students in any one location at a given time, one class at a time will attend recess on the playground. The playground will be sanitized routinely throughout the day.
- Students will not be sharing supplies. All supplies will be assigned to each student individually.
- We are currently working on grades Kindergarten – 8th Grade to be one on one with Chromebooks. This will allow each child to have a device and to avoid sharing of equipment.
- We are in the process of renovating a room in the main building to incorporate a clinic. The new clinic will allow us to give a child that is ill, a private place, away from others, to wait for pick up.
- We are currently working on Extended Care procedures and will send more details as they become available.

Details regarding Passport Day, Back-to-School nights, school sports, etc. are still to be determined. As we receive more information from the Office of Catholic Schools Diocese of Orlando, the State Health Department and the FLDOE, plans are in progress and will be revised as necessary. The intent of this letter is to share our initial protocols for starting school August 12th.

Please know that our goal is to provide a proactive approach to the reopening of school. We ended the school in crisis mode. We understand that this time has been emotional on the students and we are preparing to provide them with a safe, loving place to return to in August. In addition to continuing with our Social Emotion Learning classes, we welcome a new full time school counselor. Our Mission to “endeavor to provide a strong spiritual, academic, and emotional foundation enabling students to reach their full potential” stand truer now more than ever. We are part of a bigger, beautiful faith filled community and we plan for that to continue to be felt across campus.

Thank you again for partnering with us. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

In God's Love,

Donna Witherspoon

Principal