

Our Lady of Mercy School
7481 10th Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
V3N 2S1

March 30, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Ministry of Education and the Superintendent's Office of CISVA have provided guidance as to what the expectations are regarding e-learning which begins next week. Below are some guidelines in a Question and Answer format. More questions will certainly arise as we go through this process together and we ask for your patience.

First, I'd like to thank the staff for their dedication, creativity and commitment. We are fortunate to have them.

Second, I'd like to thank the Education Committee, Tony, the chairperson, and Shun, the vice-chair for being a sound board and supporting the staff and the OLM community.

Third, the fluid situation of the pandemic may provoke anxiety. As believers, we walk with Jesus and He reminds us not to be afraid. We know that the Lord does not abandon us and that he truly holds us in the palm of His hand. Have faith, believe and pray. We are blessed, as Christians, to have our faith to rely upon. There are people who struggle because they do not have the power of faith and trust in the Lord. Please remember them in your prayers.

Question and Answers

1. When will my child start learning on-line (E-learning)?

Grades 3 – 7 will start on Monday, April 6th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Grades K-2 will start on Wednesday, April 8th at 9:00 a.m.

2. How can I pick up my child's supplies and/or device?

Grades 3-7: All families who need to pick up a device for their child will be able to do so at the end of this week, (please see further details below). Please ask your child which number is on their device **before coming to pick it up**.

Grade K- 2: Parents will get further instructions about pick-up on Thursday, April 2, 2020.

3. How is the school going to ensure that COVID-19 safety protocol is followed during supply/device pick-up?

Device pick up for Grades 3-7 is on Thursday, April 2nd, and Friday, April 3rd from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. In order to comply with COVID standards of Physical Distancing we will be using a Grocery Store Model. Mrs. Grout will be in the gym to help the process.

Please read the following instructions carefully in order to ensure compliance:

Step 1: Come to the back door of the school, (by the Grade 7 Portable), on Thursday, April 2 or Friday, April 3 between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Step 2: You will see that cones have been set up two metres apart in order to keep in compliance with the Ministry of Health mandate. Please move to the first available cone.

If possible, please send one person per family. If that is not an available option for you, keep your child by your side at all times.

Step 3: As the next cone becomes available, move up just like you would if you are in a *grocery store* waiting to check out your groceries.

Step 4: Once you get to the water fountains you will notice that the line splits towards the two gym entrances. You *must* move to the next empty cone.

Step 5: Before you come to pick up your child's device, please ask them what number is on it. At the entrance of each gym door there will be class lists with the name of your child and the number of their device in case you have forgotten.

Step 6: Inside the gym there will be tables. Grade 6 and 7 will have tables at the back of the gym. Grades 3-5 will each have a group of three clearly marked tables spread throughout the gym. For example, Grade 3 #1-10, Grade 3 #11-20, Grade 3 #20-28.

The #'s correspond to your child's iPad.

So, if my child was in grade 3 and the number on his iPad was 17, I would move to the table with the sign that reads, "Gr. 3 11-20".

Step 7: When your table is free, (no one is at the table), move to your table and pick up your child's iPad.

Step 8: On top of your child's iPad is a form stating, "Gr. *(your child's grade)*, I acknowledge that I have picked up my child's device #*(your child's device number)*" Take that form and place it in the blue bins provided at the back doors of the gym.

Step 9: Promptly exit (leave) the gym by the back doors after you have deposited your form.

5. www.brain1st.ca Brain 1st

As you are aware, OLM started using Brain1st in January. This is an excellent program and we are encouraging parents to purchase the program if you are able. Their price is extremely reasonable and well worth it!

Brain 1st is an online e-learning platform for teachers. It contains a series of short, fun, 3D animated courses that can be played every day to help students regulate emotion, increase focus and learning, improve coordination, calm the mind and body, and increase levels of physical activity; all of which are highly critical skills for success both in and out of the classroom.

The content provided in this program is supported by several studies that demonstrate the improvements in academic performance, behaviors, physical development, and overall well-being. Just 10 minutes a day creates lasting, impactful changes in the brain!

6. When can parents expect to be contacted by the teacher?

All classroom teachers will be contacting their parents by Friday, April 3, 2020 in the same way, (same communication vehicle), that was used before Spring Break, i.e. SeeSaw, email or Google.

7. Office Hours

The office is physically closed. If you would like to contact the office or Mrs. Grout, you can phone between 9:00 am and noon on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays. You can also email the office at any time and we will do our best to reply on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

Mrs. DeSousa, our office secretary will not be answering face to face questions. I am so grateful that she has agreed to come in and keep the school running smoothly. We must be respectful of her need to Physically Distance.

8. I haven't returned my registration package yet. What should I do?

Grades 3-7 with devices to pick up: If you are coming to the school to pick up your child's device/supplies please drop your envelope off in the blue bins at the back of the gym doors as you exit.

Grades 6-7 with no device to pick up: If you do not need to come to the school to pick up a device, you can come to the front door of the school any time during office hours next week. There will be a bin outside the office door where you can place the envelope.

Grades K-2: More information about registration package drop off will be included with the coming information about supply pickup.

9. When can parents expect a letter from the Education Committee?

The EC is meeting this Thursday and a letter will be sent out the following week.

10. Will this impact First Communion and Confirmation dates?

Students in Grades Two and Seven's Sacraments are postponed until further notice from the Archbishop's office.

The school will continue to provide information and updates as they become available!

“We are one human family. Let our joint fight against the pandemic bring everyone to recognize the great need to reinforce brotherly and sisterly bonds.”

Pope Francis