

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

April 14, 2020

“Bring it on! I’m ready for this week’s e-Learning. I got this!”
OLM Student

Next to the physical health and mental well-being of our staff and students, the continuation of student learning is our top priority. Last week, students restarted school through e-learning. There have been some challenging issues with connectivity and audio. Some are easy fixes, while others are more difficult and time consuming. For example, today Google pushed out an update that created major problems. These types of issues are out of our control and we are not notified. We just have to be patient and weather the storm.

We want to assure you that OLM is working to the best of our abilities and in collaboration with our IT company, Classmate, to ensure your child is connected to a variety of learning opportunities.

The students are enjoying going off to their virtual classrooms each morning. They look forward to the unique learning experiences that teachers are creating and being able to share in learning with their classmates. I am witness to many photos of their learning, messages, completed assignments and funny comments.

Questions and Answers

1. How should I talk to my child about Covid-19?

- Convey the facts using language appropriate for their age and set an emotionally reassuring tone
- Answer honestly and clearly. It’s okay if you can’t answer everything
- Invite them to tell you what they have heard about COVID-19 and express how they feel
- Check yourself? Are you feeling anxious? Be calm and breathe before having a conversation with your child
- Emphasize safety precautions: good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, social distancing, and stay at home
- Stick to a routine. Structured days are essential part of keeping happy and healthy
- As much as possible, make sure that YOU are the person to expose your child to information regarding COVID-19. Limit their access to information from the t.v. or internet
- Keep the channels of communication open

2. **How can I manage my child's anxiety around COVID-19?**
 - Maintain routine: Stick to normal activities as much as possible: wake up, school, meals, sleep etc
 - Limit your media intake and get your facts from only credible sources, such as the BC Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization
 - Keep socially connected: through facetime, skype etc.
 - Get Fresh Air: Go for a walk, a hike or a bike ride. It does the heart and mind good to get outside
 - Take advantage of downtime.
 - Keep a healthy perspective

3. **Will teachers have to prepare a Report Card for the 2019-2020 school year in June?**
 - Yes, students will be given a RC at the end of June.

4. **Will students' work be assessed from April to June or will they be given a free pass?**
 - Yes, students' work is being assessed
 - No, students will not be given a free pass.
 - Students are expected to continue their learning and expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through the completion of their assignments

5. **What will the final Report Card's assessment reflect?**
 - Teachers will make their assessments based on students' work completed to date and the assessment of learning that will occur over the coming months.

Thank you for being such wonderful supporters. Your kind messages and pictures have been so uplifting. We are all so blessed and proud to be part of the OLM community.

“We are one human family. May the joint fight against the Covid-19 pandemic
bring everyone to recognize the great need to reinforce
brotherly and sisterly bonds.”
-Pope Francis