

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

April 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and hope you are managing the challenging times we are currently living in. I was so appreciative and overwhelmed with the outpouring of gratitude I received during the device pick-up. I communicated to the staff all your support, appreciation and well-wishes. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

OLM is committed to providing continuity in learning for our students during the extended school closure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we know that these learning activities will never replicate the learning that goes on in the classroom, we hope that continuing education for students during this time will help provide structure and normalcy. It has been a challenging, but rewarding experience to stretch our knowledge and imagination to create a meaningful place for digital learning.

While we do not have all of the answers yet and recognize that there will be some bumps in the road, our staff is working hard to address potential challenges. Grades 3-7 begin their classes on Monday, April 6th, and the staff is waiting in anticipation to hear about all the bloopers that happen on the first day. Grades K-2 will begin their classes on Wednesday, April 8th.

Questions and Answers

1. When will I hear from the Education Committee?

The Education Committee met last night and will be sending out a letter next week addressing issues such as tuition and parent participation.

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

Grades 1-2: Monday, April 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Grade K: Every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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). There is a Welcome sign indicating the entrance.

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: Inside the gym there will be tables. Each Grade will each have a group of three clearly marked tables spread throughout the gym.

For example, Grade 1 A-G, Grade 1 H-P, Grade 1 Q-Z.

The materials are organized alphabetically by FIRST name.

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

Step 8: Promptly exit (leave) the gym by the back doors after you have picked up your child's materials.

Pope Francis wants all Christians to feel connected as we face the ongoing challenges of this pandemic. He has recorded a video sharing his feelings of close connection with the global community and providing guidance about the way forward. His message is one of hope and comfort.

"There are some who are already thinking about after the epidemic, and all the problems that will arise regarding poverty, work and hunger. Let us pray together for all the people who are helping today, but who are also thinking about how to help all of us tomorrow."

-Pope Francis