



Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School
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May 15, 2020

Dear OLGC School Families,

I hope this message finds you all healthy, well, and safe. All of us are continuing to respond to the ongoing uncertainties of this pandemic and its impacts that permeate through literally every aspect of our lives. I recognize that some days are easier than others! Today, I had an important meeting with a kindergarten student who scheduled a Zoom call with me to catch up. It was fun to hear her stories and “show-and-tell.” It is blessings like these that provide God’s strength and perseverance, but also remind me of how much I miss my daily interactions with your children and families. Let’s keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and trust that His graces are flowing upon us!

I know there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding next year and many parents are wondering what next year will look like. While we continue to focus on the here and now to ensure we sustain strong teaching and learning, we also are focused on the future. Rest assured that OLGC will continue to go above and beyond to provide academic excellence and is committed to offering a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

As we make plans for the fall, the health and safety of our children will remain our top priority. The Archdiocese of Detroit Department of Catholic Schools has put together a task force consisting of clergy, administrators, educators, health officials, etc. to formulate scenarios so that we will be ready, no matter what the guidance will be from health and government officials as to how schools will prudently function in the fall. I am engaged in weekly conversations with our Archdiocese of Detroit Department of Catholic Schools leaders to hear the very latest guidance and resources available. In addition, I participate in ongoing conversations with Father Michael and my leadership team to identify the supports, safeguards, structures, logistics, financials, and guidelines that will be necessary to reopen safely when the time is right. I would like to share with you some of the possible scenarios that we are formulating for the upcoming year and the plans that are underway to prepare for any of these possibilities.

Will OLGC continue with distance learning in August when the children return to school?

Our school will follow the guidance of the Archdiocese of Detroit’s Department of Catholic Schools. It is likely that we will return to school under one of the following scenarios:

- A. School Reintegration: State and archdiocesan guidelines approve the opening of school buildings with proper CDC guidelines and mitigation strategies in place.
- B. Voluntary Hybrid Program: If school reintegration takes place, families could be offered an option to voluntarily continue distance learning.
- C. Mandatory Hybrid Program: State and archdiocesan mandates limit student occupancy whereby students could attend school and distance learning on designated days.
- D. Mandatory Distance Learning: State and archdiocesan mandates require school buildings to be closed with students continuing distance learning.

**Other scenarios are being considered among the AOD task force.*

Mission Statement:

We exist to offer a life-changing encounter with Jesus and equip leaders to transform the culture.



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How is OLGC preparing for the upcoming year?

Several action steps are being taken to prepare for the various scenarios in the fall.

- For the safety and health of our children, we are intentionally forming classes with class sizes according to the AOD guidelines. Based on these class sizes we may have waiting lists at various grade levels for next year.
- Work spaces will be available in all classrooms to provide the ability for social distancing and safety.
- Additional iPads will be purchased for the primary grades so that all students in grades K-8 will have 1:1 technology access.
- Increased sanitizing and disinfecting of surfaces and touch points per CDC guidelines

**Father Michael and I look forward to providing families the opportunity to recommit to OLGC Parish School for the 2020-2021 school year in the upcoming weeks.*

Will the cost of tuition vary depending on the different scenarios?

No, the cost of tuition will remain the same. While the student experience in each scenario is quite different, the operational expenses of the school are minimally impacted. Personnel is 80% of the school budget which goes directly towards salaries and benefits. School expenses such as technology, technology support, student information systems, curriculum resources, and facility maintenance remain the same.

While we know there are many unanswered questions regarding the future, our school community remains strong. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." We are in uncertain times, where things are out of our human control, but in the midst of that, we put our trust in Jesus. For we know He has great plans for us and soon we will see His path set forth.

Even though we are separated for the time being, I am thankful that our children have been able to continue their faith formation and grow closer to Christ through their experiences within our school and school community. We are praying for your family and please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher if you have a specific need or way we can support you during this time. Together, united with God, we will get through this!

In Christ,
Melissa Hunt, Principal

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