



## *Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School*

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May 17, 2020

My dear Parents,

Never would we have thought that this school year...in the physical sense....would have ended on March 15! There were so many wonderful events on the spring calendar that were cancelled, but we have every hope that the return to school (please God, in September) will allow us room to revise the traditional calendar and restore some of the great opportunities our children have to perform!

While we have tried very hard to stay in touch through zoom sessions, emails, phone calls, the website, and morning prayer, the distance between us really puts a strain on so many things we want to say...and share with our family! This letter (that will also be posted on the website) comes for those of you who still prefer to have the words before them on paper. Please be sure that you take note of the things that really seem important:

- **THANK YOU** to the teachers and parents who have made such valiant efforts these past weeks in picking up books and supplies, overseeing the planning and administration of actual teaching sessions, work packets and phone conferences. There are no words that could adequately express my gratitude and admiration for the truly outstanding efforts of all of our teachers who have gone to great lengths to be sure that the children continue their studies and academic development.
- The reopening of school in September will have some unique challenges, as directed by the CDC, the State, the diocese. We will be in full compliance and will do everything possible to ease the children back with their health and safety a major concern. One thing that we do need to stabilize right now is the actual **ENROLLMENT** in both the St. Rosalie's site for Pre-school, and the main campus in Southampton. Our goal is to welcome back ALL the students who were with us on March 13 (except the grads, of course). We have had several new families applying in the past few weeks, mostly people who have chosen to leave the city for a better environment for the children. Hopefully, we can make room for them and extend the OLH family's spirit of love and concern.
- **FINANCES** are a big concern for all of us. The school still has salaries, benefits and general overhead that still need to be paid for this school year. Obviously, we rely on your tuition payments, although we are willing to work out payment plans to help you if need be. For those who would find it easier to pay via credit card, we have "withdrawn" the additional fees that such payments would incur.

Looking forward, we also want to help, so the School Board approved a recommendation NOT to increase the overall tuition for the 2020-21 school year. (Normally, there would be a 3-5% increase over the past year. ) Hopefully, this will be of help to families as you try to restructure finances. We will also try to find a donor base in the community that might be able to help supplement any shortfall we may have.

Tomorrow's Hope is still available to those who have applied for financial assistance. While the filing window is closed, I know that the foundation is open to accepting new requests for assistance.

- **GRADUATION** is one of the casualties of the coronavirus, with the beautiful tradition of the formal commencement exercise for the class of 2020 assuming a very new and different means of presentation. More

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Specifics will be sent to the graduating class in the next few weeks, but, as of now, the plans include three separate events: a formal diocesan presentation live-streamed on Catholic Faith Network and other media outlets, an informal celebration planned by the Prep teachers, and the formal actual graduation liturgy and commencement, produced locally and involving our pastors, faculty and graduates. All will be virtual celebrations, as we observe social distancing, and all local regulations for assembly.

***THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE CLASS OF 2020 WILL BE CELEBRATED!!...formally.....appropriately.....spiritually...safely.....in compliance with all guidelines.***

There will also be special remembrances for the passage of the Kindergarten and Pre-school graduates.

- May 15 was to have been the date for **UNIFORM** measuring for all present fifth graders (moving onto PREP), Kindergarten and all new students. We will post directives on the website and also communicate through email the ways that you can order, measure and obtain your uniforms for next year (as soon as Flynn and O’Hara sends the notices.)

The past nine weeks have been very difficult for all of us. We all have opinions on what we see as the “best for all concerned”. Since this is all new to all, we just need to put our faith in our God and continue to be vigilant as to the needs of our families and community. Please be open.....compassionate...and patient with each other, with us, and with yourselves!

Never a day goes by that we don’t miss our children....and you!!!! God bless you all and know that you are in our prayers every day!

Peace always.....

May 2020		We are aware that there are several families who paid in advance for HOT LUNCH up until June. We will 1. apply balances to the family’s unpaid tuition balance.....2. after that, remaining balances will be listed as credit toward next year’s HOT LUNCH....3. refund remainder to families who have no other amounts due. This is a long and difficult process, but will be taken care of. We are grateful to the HOT LUNCH parents who did such a great job on making hot lunch....and keeping great records.				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17  FINE ARTS WEEK	18	19	20  School board	21  Ascension  Liturgy FOR all  TBA	22  Holiday- no classes	23
24	25 <a href="#">Memorial Day</a> Holiday-NO CLASSES	26	27	28	29  VIRTUAL MAY CROWNING	30
31	June 1	2	3 VIRTUAL FIELD DAY	4	5 POWER GRADE BOOK CLOSES	6
7	8 Last day of class- PREP 8	9	10	11 Last day of class- PREP 8 Grades due	12 ***** VIRTUAL GRADUATION- PREP 8	13
14	15 virtual PK GRADUATION  ½ day	16 Virtual K GRADUATION ½ day	17  ½ day 7-SCHOOL BOARD	18 Last day of Class ½ day Gr 1-7	19 VIRTUAL CLOSING PRAYER 10AM Report cards	20