

*Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School  
160 North Main Street,  
Southampton New York 11968*



*Office of the Principal*

January 3, 2020

My dear Parents,

As we prepared to welcome the 2020 year this past week, my thoughts went back to those days while I was in the Novitiate when every New Year's Eve was a silent retreat day. Everything was put on hold and we were provided with opportunities for prayer, meditation and time to make resolutions that would, hopefully, make the coming year better. To be honest, so much of that good-intentioned retreat time and silence was "wasted" on a then twenty-one year old. Now, a much older (and, hopefully, wiser) school principal has finally learned the value of stepping aside to reflect, retreat...and pray for all that has been, that is...and will be!

Christmas was very special this year and I do believe that the short time between Thanksgiving and this vacation time actually made us make better use of the time all around. The Advent Service, Christmas Show, Santa Breakfast and the Radio City trip provided many opportunities to see the joy, wonder and strength our very special children. If you have not had a chance to view the full video of the December 16th show, please make it a priority to watch at least part of that to understand how much the final lyrics will set the tone for the year to come:

*Star of happiness, star of wonder, You see everything from afar  
Cast your eye upon the future. Make us wiser than we are.  
Star of gentleness, hear our plea! Whisper your wisdom tenderly.  
Star of Bethlehem, set us free! Make us a world we long to see.*

Once the calendar moves to the new year, it is easy to work out the remainder of the year in seven week blocks (now-mid-winter vacation.....February until Easter...and post-Easter until June.) There are many events, activities, projects to accompany the regular academic structure of the year. We do ask that you please factor in the absolute need for great attendance and on-time arrival into your family plans. This year, especially, has given sufficient room for extra time away. Your child's success at school depends upon his/her being active in a classroom setting, interacting with peers and teachers. Check the calendar carefully!

At this time, we do offer these special reminders:

**FINANCIAL CONCERNS:**

- By this time, your **tuition payments** should be nearing the half-way point. We will be sending reminders to those who may have fallen behind with time payments, and do ask that you please do all you can to be up to date. (The tuition rates for next year will be set in spring.)
- Fund-raising during the year is necessary to supplement tuition, as you know. The Golf Outing was successful, and now we focus our efforts on the two remaining "big events"...the spring **Ladies Luncheon** and the February 1 **Bucks for Books** campaign. We have asked that each family do all that it can to sell at least FIVE chances. (Remember that, for each 5 you sell, you have a chance to win next year's tuition!)

- **REGISTRATION for 2020-21** will open later this week. Interviews and tours will be available for new families hoping to join the OLH family next year. Current families will be asked to make their intentions known in early February. If you have a child who should be entering either Pre-school or Kindergarten it would be most helpful if you could let us know that now. We will send your registration packets home.
- **PARENT ASSISTANCE NEEDED-** As always, we depend upon the volunteer services of parents and grandparents. Please check the website and see where you can best help:
  - ^Pancake Breakfast dads
  - ^ CYO Basketball and Chess parent helpers and coaches
  - ^ Families to represent OLH at the diocesan mass at St. Agnes Cathedral on January 18
  - ^Underwriters for a few special events
  - ^ Concession help for athletic events
- **FINE ARTS SESSION #2** will begin during the week of January 13. Check the website for how your child can get involved in the spring sessions for violin, guitar, tap, ballet, jazz, drama, Joyful Noise, Hamptones and Hamptonix.
- **HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY** are concerns that we all share. Please be aware of the absolute need for everyone's following the same guidelines. Your child's safety is paramount.
  - ^We expect that the electronic gate onto Railroad Avenue will be activated later this week. That means that that exit will be blocked from the outside. All must enter the yard from Maple Street and exit via Railroad Avenue.
  - ^We are not being cruel by not admitting you during the school day via the rear doors. All visitors are asked to use only the front door and wait to be admitted after the electronic door opens for you. *(Please note that there is a sign at the entrance asking for cell phones to be put away!)*

Issuing this list of reminders is not "my favorite thing" to do, but, every society, agency and group of gatherers can only interact peacefully and in an orderly manner if there are some guidelines in place!

All the prayer, down time and (wishful thinking) retreat only serves to underscore what is truly important here: the **mission** of creating and maintaining a community of faith-filled people who seek to work and walk together **LISTENING** for those special messages that our God sends via others ... **LEARNING** of ways in which our talents and abilities can best be used for the service of others....and **LOVING** those closest to us and all who are seeking our loving care and concern.

Let's embrace the new year, grateful for what we share....and open to all the new possibilities that may be presented to us as we are guided by that Star of Bethlehem!

Know you are remembered each day in my prayers....and that I count on yours!

Peace always,

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