



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

January 22, 2022

My dear Parents,

One of the “casualties of Covid” these past almost-two years has been our ability to get together in person to share good company and accurate information straight “from the horse’s mouth”. No matter how hard we try, an abundance of letters, fliers, emails, robo-calls or texts there is always the realization that special messages do not always get to where they are intended. Up until 2020, there would be an in-person parent meeting at which parents would be able to get the “state of the school” first hand. Of course, many would not attend because of distance, lack of baby-sitter, weather, yet those who did attend could always say that they heard everything directly.

In any event, I dare to take a little time this weekend to send off some thoughts that certainly appear to be important as we continue this unique school year, and to hope that you will take a few minutes as well to be refreshed and updated.

Despite daily media updates on the **pandemic** and the scramble for vaccines, masks, etc, we have been able to host our children at school each day...in person plus four remote days. The teachers have been incredible in their preparation and dedication. The parents and children have responded well. We cannot take a political stance with regard to specifics, but do urge you to stay close to the website and notes from school that will update where OLH stands. The essential thing is the overall health of the entire school.

- Test kits were made available to all (although several families did not take them)
- Mrs. Shimkus does answer every call or inquiry.....and continues to remind you to keep children who are truly showing symptoms at home pending testing.
- School age children DO get colds, sore throats, fevers, viruses. Watch them carefully, but know that this is NOT necessarily Covid-related. Keep communication open with your pediatrician.
- Yes, we have had children who have tested positive, as well as been close contacts. Appropriate protocols are followed with quarantines if so indicated. (It is absolutely inappropriate to expect those affected to be named.) There is no blame or identification of the source to be applied.

**Catholic Schools Week** begins January 30. Normally, we would open with the family Pancake Breakfast and Grandparents’ Tea. Both have been rescheduled for the first week of March simply out of caution. Internal events (Speech Contest, Pep Rally, Liturgy) will go on as scheduled and live-streamed for everyone.

- The emphasis this year will be on recognizing the goodness and spirit of OLH students past, present and future. The message should simply be that we are HERE, NOW, PREPARING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
- Private interviews and tours for parents of prospective students are being scheduled. We have very little space available for new students this coming September, so early decision is certainly urged. (If you have not already done so, please be sure you have done the quick Family Reregistration form sent last week.)

There is limited financial assistance for tuition grades K-8 for next year through the **Tomorrow’s Hope Founda-**

**tion.** Several of our families have been helped over the years. OLH, itself, cannot help you financially, but we would support your application to TH! The application process is completed totally online. Please go to the [www.olh.org](http://www.olh.org) page and get started now if you plan to apply. (also: [www.tomorrowshopefoundation.org](http://www.tomorrowshopefoundation.org))

During the past year, the ***fund-raising efforts*** of the school were severely impacted. Losing big events like the in-person Ladies' Luncheon and even the spring show impacted the annual supplement to tuition and subsidies. Fortunately, we have developed a base of substantial donors whose generosity has offset funds we could not raise in school. Sadly, however, many of those sources of funding have “dried up” due to age, death or financial change.

- If you know of any foundation, business or individual seeking to make an investment in the future of a small private Catholic school on the East End, please send your information. I am not afraid to write to them, speak via telephone or meet with them. ***(We do need to build that base for the future!)***
- The largest effort is ***Bucks for Books***. All proceeds from this (normally over \$75,000) go directly into the school's operating account to benefit YOUR child. This still leaves a large gap in the parent portion of fundraising required for the school to meet its budget.
- Each family has been asked to try to sell five tickets for this raffle. As of this date, we KNOW that there are 400 tickets yet unaccounted for. Please do your part. This is so important right now. (After this is completed, we will begin negotiating the tuition rates for the 2022-23 school year, and the success of this effort will certainly affect that dialogue.)

One more casualty of this time has been in-person teacher conferences. The contact between parent and teacher is essential for the children and their success. The **academics are foundational**, but also serve as developmental tools. It is not so much the absorption of content, but rather the internal disciplines of learning: observation, listening, discussion, drawing conclusions, meeting deadlines. Please take time to look carefully at your child's Power Grade Book. What is recorded there is a snapshot of what has been accomplished. Successful students...and adults....are not number grades, but rather, a digest of gradually developing skills and interests!

Over the years, there has never been a time when our children have not been our main concern. NOW...MORE THAN EVER.....we renew our commitment to work with and for you and those children. Our spiritual connection has been tested recently and has drawn us closer.

Now we must band together to demonstrate that strength and unity that we have developed. At this time, the enrollment at OLH has never been stronger, and there is financial stability. The future of Catholic education on the East End is promising! We cannot be complacent and must continue to do all we can to insure a stable, excellent and forward-thinking, faith-filled school! Again, we ask your TRUST.....your PATIENCE and ...your PRAYERS! Know that never a day passes that YOU are not remembered in prayer! God bless you always

Have a great weekend!

*Sister Kathy*