**Our Lady of Mercy Preschool**

**August 2020 Newsletter**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Our theme this year is “Mission of Faith Space Voyage!” We are excited to extend our summer theme into the school year because it truly provides a creative way to teach with the new guidelines. As we begin, many of the usual events at school are postponed. However, outlined below are some of the ways we will continue to operate.

**OUR SCHOOL YEAR**

The calendar for the school year has changed. We are now following the K-8th grades calendar. However, the 12:30pm dismissal days do not pertain to preschool expect for November 20th, December 18th, and April 1st. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**FAMILY ENVELOPES**

Family envelopes will not be sent home this year. All needed information will be sent electronically and found on the preschool blog and teachers blogs.

**CLASSROOM FILES**

Each student has a file in the classroom. This file is for the parents/guardians. The teachers will hand you the contents of the file at pick-up.

**FUNDRAISERS**

The preschool will have two fundraisers this year. These fundraisers help support our operating budget, as well as, allow us to buy curriculum, technology, and classroom furniture/materials. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

**ALLERGIES**

At this time, we do have not restrictions on products brought into the preschool. If that changes, you will be notified right away.

**SECURITY**

The security gate will open at 7:00am and be locked at 8:20am. The gate will remain locked until 11:15am. It will then be closed at 11:45am. At 2:15pm, the gate will be open until 2:45pm, and then open again at 3:45pm. Any other drop-off or pick-up time, you will have to push the call button. The instructions are posted on the gate. As a reminder, the gate will unlock after the first “click” and you pull the handle straight out (not down).

**THE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS**

The teachers have worked very hard to create an engaging environment for the students while adhering to the new guidelines. We encourage you to participate on the See Saw App as your child’s teacher will be sending you pictures and videos of his/her amazing work and participation in the classroom.

**SECOND STEP SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM**

All of the classrooms will be implementing the Second Step social/emotional curriculum. This is a researched-based program, which teaches children key social/emotional skills. You can learn more about the program at [www.secondstep.org](http://www.secondstep.org). You will be given home links either on the blog, through See Saw, or a hard copy sent home.

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held virtually through Zoom. These conferences will take place in October. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, you can email your child’s teacher or call the school at 722-6657.

**AGES AND STAGES QUESTIONNAIRES**

The Ages and Stages Questionnaires will be distributed within the next two weeks. PLEASE return BOTH questionnaires, as they are not the same. One questionnaire is for your child’s overall development and the other concentrates on social/emotional development. Your participation is critical, as these screenings give you and the teachers a snapshot of your child’s development. Your child’s score sheet will be sent home with an explanation of any necessary next steps.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 722-6657 or email mary.kravec@olmlancers.com

God Bless You,

Mrs. Mary