Dear Parent,

Can you believe we have been doing this for six weeks already? In case you haven’t realized, we are at the halfway point as we have exactly six weeks to go. I am grateful and humbled every day to be part of this amazing community. Our Waldron teachers are committed, motivated and ready to take on the remainder of the year! Yes we can and yes we will!

Now to this week’s updates....

**Calendar Update**
As we stated previously, with the use of snow days, previously planned days off and in-services, and the creative use of spring break days, students will continue the four days of learning each week, ending school as scheduled on June 5.

Now that we know we will not be returning to our building, our attention has also turned to the events we traditionally hold in May and June. We are currently planning field day, the sports banquet, a virtual eighth grade final dance, and retreats. We hope you are enjoying our Facebook and Instagram posts where each of our eighth-grade-almost-graduates are featured in a random order, so each day you can try to guess who will be next. We are ABSOLUTELY thinking about graduations for our littlest and especially our eighth graders! You have probably figured out that instead of being the “same old” graduation as last year’s, this year’s will be a very unique and special “first”!!!! You can look forward to an email detailing all of these special events!

**Belonging Pick-up**
We recognize that some students, particularly those in the Lower School, need books or materials to complete Distance Learning this year, while many others left personal items, medication, and instruments in school. Additionally, some of our lower school teachers and specialists want to provide packets for their students’ use, and we also want to make the Tigerfest items available for pick-up. With that in mind, and the feedback that most of you are comfortable with picking up items, we are developing a way to provide these items as soon as possible in as safe a manner as possible, using the appropriate social distancing measures.

In order to make this pick-up possible, our staff will be entering the building this week individually and at varying times to gather items (while carefully following health precautions and maintaining social distancing). Your child’s teacher may be, therefore, at school and unavailable for a few hours this week. Teachers will directly notify their families about their availability.
We are creating a sign-up genius for you to schedule a pick up. Once a grade finishes preparing their materials, we will let you know to sign up for a time. If you have multiple children, you can wait until each of their materials are ready for pick up. Materials will be placed in your open trunk by one of us wearing a mask and gloves. You should clean these materials at home the same way you would items coming from the grocery store. We suggest you might want to leave them in your car for a few days before you touch them. Stay tuned for more on this later this week.

2020-2021 Transportation
As a reminder, please complete the Transportation Form to let us know how your children will get to and from WMA next year.

Surveys
Thank you for completing the parent survey. We are reviewing the 299 responses to guide our teachers moving forward and are very appreciative of your honesty, all the positive feedback, and especially the constructive criticism. The teachers will receive the information (less personal identifiers) by the end of day Monday.

Students in grades 4-8 received a survey Thursday, with the eighth graders also receiving questions pertinent to their unique experience. Surveys can be found in each religion teacher’s Google Classroom and are due back tomorrow. We look forward to reading their responses.

Mercy In Action
Don’t forget to join us in prayer every night at 6:30, keeping our healthcare and other essential workers, and our Sisters of Mercy in your prayers.

Did you know that every April the Sisters of Mercy celebrate their Jubilarians? This year several Sisters in the Waldron Community celebrate milestone years. Please join us in congratulating Sisters Barbara MacWilliams and Marie Michele (Board of Trustee) on their 60th anniversaries and Sisters Marianna Walsh (Board of Trustee) and Sr. Mary Hasson (teaches Latin to 7th and 8th grade) on their 70th anniversaries! They have been “Mercy in Action” their whole lives. We will be celebrating them in special ways, so stay tuned!

Thanks and Good News
Tigerfest was amazing! Ashley Robinson, the Advancement staff, and the Tigerfest Committee successfully created a night to remember! A special recognition to those who attended the event. Seeing you all reminded me of Waldron’s strength - even under unusual circumstances, our families rose to the challenge of supporting our school.

The Passion Play was also a wonderful experience! As a school, we recognized the importance of carrying on this eighth grade Easter tradition, and while it may have looked different, the spiritual experience will be remembered for years to come.

We are proud to announce that the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools has granted re-accreditation to WMA for seven years! We are so thankful for the many hours of work our teachers dedicated to this endeavor!

In Conclusion
As we continue in this new normal, may we carry love and kindness in our hearts and continue to share it with others. May we keep our family, friends, health care and essential workers, and our
WMA family in our prayers, and while we are apart, find peace in Catherine McAuley's words, “Our hearts can always be in the same place, centered on God.” We are together!

Take care of yourselves - keep up your energy and your faith and know that you are in our prayers.

In Mercy and Prayer,
Ann Marie