



WALDRON MERCY ACADEMY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

05/24/2020 9:55 AM

Email Subject WMA - Updates for Distance Learning Week 11

Dear Parent,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful Memorial Day weekend! It seems surreal that we only have two weeks of school left. If you get a chance, watch our [Virtual tour](#). Your students will recognize their artwork in the halls and will be reminded of many happy memories from this year!

Looking ahead to those two weeks....

A reminder that Field Day for students in grades K-8 and the Montessori 5's will be on Monday, June 1. Teams and team colors (yellow or blue) will be announced shortly. If you missed the list of the "equipment" (all common household items) that was sent out, click [here](#) so you can gather these household items in advance of June 1!

Virtual Achievement Assemblies

The 8th grade achievement assembly will be held on Tuesday, June 2, and you are encouraged to attend this grade-wide gathering! Parents of children in grades 3-7 will also be invited to attend their student's achievement assembly, which like most things, will look different this year. The gathering will either be a grade-wide assembly or unique to each classroom, depending upon the grade, but will include the traditional Mercy, Effort and Outstanding achievement awards. Parents of students in grades preschool to 2nd grade may look forward to special closing ceremonies and end of year activities.

The Perfect Attendance award is being discontinued due to the importance of staying home when sick. Be on the lookout for specific invites to these Achievement Assemblies from your students' teachers. We hope to see as many of you as possible in these gatherings!

Belonging Pick-up and Drop-off

Our faculty will be periodically entering the building over the next few weeks to pack up remaining student belongings. We anticipate that during the week of June 15 you will be able to pick up these items and also drop off Chromebooks, iPads, and textbooks. You will receive additional details, including a Sign Up Genius, shortly.

Content, Report Cards and Grading

I know some of you have asked, so I am happy to report that our teachers were able to cover either all or nearly all the content they had planned to teach this year. If a particular topic was not taught, the teachers in the receiving grade are aware and will cover that material next year. You will hear more about this directly from your student's teachers.

As your students are not physically in school, you will receive their report cards virtually.

Parents with students in Montessori and preschool through grade three will receive a report as a PDF attachment to an email. The report card will remain the same except for subjects such as handwriting and social development. In these areas where teachers were unable to assess the students, grades will not be given for the third trimester.

Parents in grades four through eight will be able to access the report card through OptionC on June 5. Knowing that the adjustment to distance learning impacted student achievement and assessment in various ways, we have decided to weigh the first two trimesters more heavily in calculating the student's final grade. Therefore, trimesters one and two will each count as 35% of the final grade while the third trimester will count as 30%.

Permanent Art Collection

Congratulations to the following students whose artwork was chosen to be added to the permanent art collection hanging in our school:

- 1st - Liam Mikkelsen - Quetzal Bird
- 2nd - Quinn Fry - Huipil Blouse Stamping
- 3rd - TBA
- 4th - Jamie Thornburg - Skeleton
- 5th - TBA
- 6th - Mary (Mimi) O'Malley - Picasso Blue Period Still Life
- 7th - TBA
- 8th - Grace O'Connor - Aztec Calendar

The TBAs are there because the students were still working on these lessons when they left school. They will be completed when we return to WMA and a selection will be made.

Summer Reading Lists

Summer reading lists are almost finalized and will be posted shortly on the teacher's websites.

Distance Learning Task Force

The Distance Learning Task Force shared some of their recommendations with the Board of Trustees this week and met again last week. Their recommendations should be ready to be shared next week.

Looking Ahead to Next School Year

As was stated last week, we are already looking towards the next school year, paying careful attention to the evolving situation. To be clear, our hope is that we can open normally, but the purpose of forming a task force is to be prepared to follow CDC guidelines and develop best safety and educational practices. We will use the recommendations from the current task force

and information received from our legal counsel, the school district, local health officials, and experts provided by our private school consortiums. We plan to have medical advisors, board members, administrators and teachers as part of this group. If you are a medical provider and would like to be a part of the task force, please contact [Christine Burrell](#).

Family Support

Please remember that our community is always ready to support you in prayer. By submitting prayer intentions on our [website](#), the entire WMA community will be praying along with you.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, our community is willing to help. We are anticipating the need to support some members of our community. Please reach out to Mark Murray, the Director of Operations at mmurray@waldronmercy.org.

I am happy to announce that WMA is establishing a financial aid fund, the Circle of Mercy Emergency Fund, as we recognize the financial uncertainty many of our families are facing during this time. Keep a look out for more information as we encourage our alumni and other external supporters to assist our families who COVID-19 has affected.

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.

Mercy in Action

I hope you opened the latest issue of Tiger Prints that hit your inboxes on Thursday because we announced the bittersweet news that the Sisters of Mercy appointed Sr. Joellen as a new Life Coordinator at the Motherhouse. Read our full announcement and a beautiful note from Sr. Joellen in the newsletter [here](#).

Our students continue to pray the rosary together for an individual sister and write letters to offer prayers for specific sisters living at either the Motherhouse or McAuley Convent. You can find the sisters assigned to your child's classroom at the top of their homeroom teacher's webpage. We encourage you to join your child in writing your prayers to these sisters or [praying the rosary](#) for them.

As always, please remember to join us in prayer at 6:30 every night, keeping the Sisters of Mercy, the WMA community, and those on the front lines of the pandemic in your prayers.

Graduation Plans

We are excited to be able to hold an in-person graduation event for our eighth grade families! Families will drive up to campus and remain in cars as students pick up diplomas one by one. We will be following appropriate safety measures and remain socially distant, but are so excited to celebrate our graduates in person! Additionally, on Friday, August 7 we plan to gather in person to further celebrate the Class of 2020 with their families.

Calendar

Please note that since students are off Memorial Day, they will have classes on Friday, May 29. The calendar is re-printed below as an FYI.

In Conclusion

We hope your family takes time for much needed rest and relaxation this Holiday Weekend. Please remember in your prayers the Veterans and servicemen and servicewomen who have fought or fight to keep our country safe and free, and of course, all those who are serving us in so many ways during this pandemic. We ask God, in the words of poet Austin Fleming, to “hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others ahead of their own and give us hearts as generous as theirs.”

Stay safe and keep the faith!

In Mercy and Prayer,
Ann Marie

Last Two Weeks’ Calendar

May 29 Classes are scheduled
 Grade 6 retreat

June 1 Field Day all day

June 2

 Achievement/Recognition Assembly grade 8 only
 Seventh grade retreat/field trip
 Virtual Art Show in afternoon
1:00 Moveup day for grades PS, PK, K and Montessori 5’s
6:30pm Sports Banquet

June 3

 Eighth grade retreat
10:00 Prek end of year closing
12:00 Preschool end of year closing
 PM Classroom achievement assemblies grades 3-7

June 4

9:00 Montessori 5 year olds end of year closing
10:00 Kindergarten end of year closing
6:30pm 8th Grade Graduation

June 5

8:30 - 9:15 Moveup day for grades 1-7
9:30 End of year Prayer Service and gatherings