

Catholic High Parentlines

Supporting our parents in their role as the primary educators of the Catholic faith

Owensboro Catholic High School

November 2020

Careful thought should be given to our decisions

In the best of times, being the parent of a teenager can be difficult. I can't imagine how tough it is during the times we are living in now. I know that parents of teens today have to make some tough decisions about what to allow or not to allow when it comes to social activities due to the Corona virus. According to data, teens' symptoms tend to not be very severe if they do contract Covid, and many do not even know if they have it, which really complicates the decision-making process for parents.

As we have mentioned several times, much planning, preparation and some criticism took place when we decided to go full time, in-person this year at OCS. So far, according to the data, it seems to have been the right decision since there has been no transmission among students while at school or during any of our extra-curricular activities. However, what we have seen recently is an uptick in the amount of students who have had to be quarantined due to contracting or being exposed to the virus during outside-of-

school events.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that many of these events have been hosted by parents for upwards of 50 students. While it is not our business to try to control anything that goes on outside of school, it could affect how we do business here. Because of the fact that it is very demanding on our teachers to try to instruct and manage both in-school and out-of-school students, both at the same time. It also puts other students and staff at risk if exposed students come to school after being at these events.

It has also been suggested by some on social media that students and student athletes, shouldn't test so they wouldn't have to quarantine and miss school or athletic events. This is not only inconsiderate of all those who are here at OCHS each day, but it is also reckless and possibly dangerous to others, especially staff members who may be of a certain age, have medical conditions, or have someone at home who may be vulnerable.

I know that there are many who may

**Gates Settle,
Principal**



question the seriousness of this pandemic, doubt the medical and science community's findings and may view all this as a political issue, but the numbers of those infected and the deaths don't lie. Just because it may not be affecting the most visible in our community doesn't mean that it isn't affecting a lot of families in a very negative way. So, in keeping with what our faith teaches, we should respect ALL life, and if one is truly pro-life, then consideration and careful thought should be given to how their actions and behaviors may affect others before making those social decisions.

A couple of big changes

With the recent announcement by the local public schools to return to 100% virtual education over the next couple of weeks, this will mean a couple of BIG changes for OCS families.

- Busing will not be available to OC families after Friday November 20, 2020. At this time, we do not know when busing will be available to our families.
- For the foreseeable future, OCS leadership will be making all decisions regarding weather-related delays or closings. We will do our best to make decisions either the night before or by 6AM.
- We will communicate any closings or delays in 2 ways: First, we will send out a text alert, and second, we will put the information on the home page of the OCS website, <https://owensborocatholic.org/>
- If you have not already signed up for text alerts, please follow the following link: <https://owensborocatholic.org/text-alerts/>

As always, we appreciate your support during this most unique and different year. Please continue to help us by doing your part in keeping children, teachers, and staff safe by wearing your masks and not sending children to school if they have a fever or are ill.

Our protocols have proven to be very effective against the spread of the virus, but we cannot be successful without your help. Please do your part in keeping our kids in school, in person.

Philosophy and mission

Owensboro Catholic Schools share in the mission of the Church in communion with families and parishes to provide excellence in Catholic faith formation and academics which prepare students to become responsible members of family, Church, and community.

We at Owensboro Catholic High School believe that each person is sacred and individual, and both called and destined by God for continued growth of all his or her faculties, abilities and awarenesses, both spiritual and material.

We believe, therefore, that it is the primary responsibility of the school to create a truly Catholic environment in which each student is afforded the opportunity to become aware of his or her own worth and be inspired to seek fulfillment in all levels of his or her existence .