



Dear OLM Families,

I hope you've enjoyed the lovely summer weather. As I commence my third year at OLM, due to the hard work of the PTG, faculty and administrative staff, I am happy to report that there continues to be much good news to report relative to the upcoming school year.

**1. Personnel:** Please join me in welcoming the new faculty and staff:

Dr. Deborah Husak:	Middle School Science teacher
Mrs. Stephanie Palmisano:	Director of Little Saints & Scholars Program (formerly Extended Day Program) and All-Purpose daily substitute
Mrs. Deborah Carraccio:	Pre-K 4 Aide

**2. Leadership Team Changes:** After conducting extensive research regarding best practice around school leadership, I believe the following paradigm is the best model to move OLM forward. While each teacher will continue teaching in their primary content area, they will also assist me in coordinating changes around curriculum, instruction, assessment and N.E.A.S. & C. preparation. The team will play a key role in moving the school forward based on a "continuous improvement model."

- Middle School Coordinator: Ms. Kelly Jackson (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Intermediate Grade Level Coordinator: Mrs. Jill Hackett (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Early Childhood Coordinator: Mrs. Denise Palizza (Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Technology Coordinator: Mrs. Bea Lukens
- Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs. Cheryl Xavier

**3. Changes in Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction, & Technology for 2016/17 School Year**

**Spanish:** Mrs. Russell will now begin teaching classes in Kindergarten (previously in 1<sup>st</sup> grade). To better prepare our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, Mrs. Russell will now teach Spanish twice a week to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Pre-K 3/4:** To ensure a successful year, Mrs. Maguire and Ms. Watson will work collaboratively as a "Pre-K Team" along with Mrs. Palizza. A "Learn through play" model will be used to guide and teach students at this level.

**Technology:** Mrs. Lukens will lead the school in implementing both the **Google classroom** for teachers and the **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** initiatives for students. BYOD will be available this year for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Please see our website for recommended devices and the enclosed letter outlining the roll out of the program. The new wireless system was installed and tested last year and is now ready for multiple classes. In

addition, the Makerspace Pilot program that was begun last year, due to its amazing success, has now been formally adopted as the new Technology Class for all grade levels.

**S.T.E.A.M. (Pilot 2nd year):** All coordinators along with Dr. Husak will continue working on its implementation. Over the next two years it's expected that K - 8 grades will have embedded within their curriculum at least three STEM/STEAM lessons per year.

**Innovation Lab (New Pilot):** A new course, Innovation Lab will be offered to our seventh grade class by Mrs. Lukens. Innovation Lab will offer an **optional** credited course during the Curriculum Enrichment period (once a week). The course will include a research project and a TED presentation . This pilot will enable students to explore their own interests/passions (art, technology, writing, etc). More information on this opportunity will follow in September.

**Academic Support:** Mrs. Xavier, Academic Support Coordinator, will continue to chair the OLM Student Support Team (RTI). Her focus this year will be assisting the team with the implementation of the STAR testing system and assisting teachers with the interpretation of test data. Mrs. Xavier is also available to counsel students with emotional and social needs.

**Mimio™ interactive whiteboard:** Mimio is the next generation of interactive white board and will replace our SMART/Epson boards as needed. This year, Ms. Shea and Mrs. Hackett will be the recipient of Mimios for their classrooms.

**Flipped Classroom (Pilot 2<sup>nd</sup> year):** Ms. Jackson will continue using this teaching technique and is available to faculty to assist in implementing flipped classrooms. A flipped classroom allows students to preview/review material at home through video/audio/web resources, enabling them to come to class prepared to work collaboratively on a project or classwork.

**Latin and Greek Roots (Pilot 2<sup>nd</sup> year):** Mrs. Hackett, grade 3, along with Ms. Shea and Mrs. Turchetta in grade 4 will continue with this pilot program. The goal is to institute this program in the intermediate grades by next year. The Rooted Mind™ will expose students to root words in their original language. Students will explore derivatives of prefixes and suffixes in both Latin & Greek allowing them to better understand the origin and meaning of words in the English language. If you'd like to learn more about this exciting program, please go to the website, <http://the-rooted-mind.com/>.

**STAR-Renaissance Testing:** The Diocese of Providence has contracted with Renaissance Learning to provide assessment tools to teachers in all Diocesan schools. This replaces the TerraNova test. Please see the enclosed letter from Mr. Ferris, Superintendent of Diocesan schools for more information.

**Religion:** Father Barrow, Sister Emma and Sister Lourdes will continue to assist all faculty in the teaching of the Catholic faith. Father Barrow's primary focus will be with the middle school students.

**4. Parent/Student Satisfaction Survey Results** (using data for "continuous improvement"): Thanks to the 99 parents and 100 students who participated in the June 2016 Surveys. Results of the survey are enclosed. I'm happy to report that, in all programs, parents were either Mostly or Completely Satisfied with all "programs" ranging from 68% to approximately 92% of the time. Students were a little tougher to please 😊 I've shared the data with the PTG and will continue to use data, both quantitative and qualitative, to move the school forward. Based on this feedback, we've made adjustments to three of the programs as noted:

## ❖ **Communication Program:**

1. The OLM school webpage will now be updated twice a week by Mrs. Buonaccorsi. The most important news and school events will appear in a newly created “scrawl”. Pictures and the school calendar of events will be updated as well.

2. A once-a-week email blast on Wednesday afternoon, using the Benchmark email marketing system will be used. This web-based application is cross-platform and the contents of the email will contain logistics, events, and dates for the week; it is easily read on any device/phone. Mrs. Izzi will spearhead this effort. This replaces the bi-weekly email blast using the “Blackboard” service that became problematic relative to sending/opening attachments.

3. The OLM School Newsletter will now be produced once a month, and sent home the last Wednesday of the month in student backpacks. The format will be changed to emphasize the three grade levels; Early Childhood (Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Intermediate Grades (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) and Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

❖ **Lunch Program:** The Campus Cuisine lunch menu has been modified. Wild Harvest will move to Tuesday and has extensively revamped their menu, Papa Gino’s moves to Thursday, Moe’s is no longer a service provider. I’m happy to report that we’ve added Tio Mateo’s Restaurant on Monday’s. Chick-Fil-A and Panera will continue on Wednesday and Friday respectively. Please check out the 2016/17 menus on-line; they can be accessed from the school website. If you are new to the school, please read the enclosed letter from Campus Cuisine.

❖ **Little Saints & Scholars Program (formerly known as Extended Day):** Mrs. Palmisano, Program Director, will coordinate changes. There will be a renewed emphasis on both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages along with a homework completion time. Sister Lourdes and Sister Emma will continue to assist Mrs. Palmisano along with Mrs. DiPrete and Mrs. Manion.

## **5. Facilities & Grounds Update**

**Model Classroom Initiative (Pilot 2nd year):** This initiative, emphasizes the intentional replacement and upgrading of fixed assets at the school. This summer, Mrs. Palizza’s room has a new coat of paint along with new student desks and chairs. Mrs. Maguire’s Pre-K 3 room has been updated with all new furniture, including six new “learning” centers.

**Drop-Off Traffic Pattern:** If you drop-off/pick-up your child, please carefully review the enclosed diagram.

## **6. Volunteers Needed for:**

- On-line School Store
- Yearbook Advisor
- Art Masters Program

If you’d like to assist in any of the programs, please contact Mrs. Jaime Pedro, PTG president. In all areas, you would work with at least one other PTG member.

## 7. Action Items:

- Pre-K 3 Uniforms: if sizes are not available from Donnelly's, you are free to purchase clothing using the following guidelines:
  - SS/LS Polo Shirts: white or navy blue
  - Pants/Shorts: Navy blue with elastic waistband
  - Skirt/Skort: Navy blue
- If you are going to volunteer this year and didn't update your BCI last year, you must take care of this **before** volunteering for any school functions (including field trips). Please visit our website at [olmschool.org/PTG/Volunteers/Forms](http://olmschool.org/PTG/Volunteers/Forms).
- The enclosed **Emergency Contact** information form is REQUIRED for EACH student and must be returned prior to the start of school.

## 8. Important Dates: (also available on the school web site Google calendar)

8/24, Wednesday:	Faculty Retreat, Ender's Island, CT (8 – 12:30); Pre-K and K "Meet and Greet Night"; Uniform Swap; 5:30 – 7:30pm, Meet & Greet Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4, 6 – 7pm
8/25, Thursday:	9am, 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, Faculty training STAR testing, PTG sponsored faculty lunch
8/26, Friday:	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School
8/28, Sunday:	New Family Mass followed by reception - 9am
8/31, Wednesday	Band "Demo Day" – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade, 8:30 – 9:30am
9/2, Friday:	First Friday Mass (formal uniform required) - 9am
9/7, Wednesday:	Life Touch picture day (formal uniform required); Back to School Night, 5 – 8pm
9/8, Thursday:	Mulligan's Island 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser
9/12, Monday:	School Confessions, grades 3 to 8

I look forward to a wonderful school year!

Yours in Christ,



Scott Fuller  
Principal