



Saints & Scholars

...so that Mercy may flourish

The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students so that they may be true to their condition as Christ's disciples and as such work effectively for the evangelization of culture and for the common good of society ~ Pope St. John Paul II

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, 10/5

5:00pm - Cross Country Meet - Goddard Park (Boys First)

Thursday, 10/6

Walk-a-thon

Friday, 10/7

9:00am - No School - Professional Day

Monday, 10/10

Columbus Day - No School

Tuesday, 10/11

Walk-a-thon (Rain date)

Wednesday, 10/12

No Bus Service - EG students

2:45pm - Faculty Meeting

4:00pm - Cross Country Diocesan Meet - Slater Park (Girls First)

Friday, 10/14

Middle School Dance - Hosted by 8th



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Jesus ~ John 1:1 - 5

Principal's Message

As we commence the school year, there are two important changes that are noteworthy. First, after a lengthy discussion last year, the following changes were unanimously approved by the faculty for Trimester grades that will appear on the school report card:

- Pre-K to 2nd grades ~ grades 1 and 2 will continue to use rubric grades of 1 – 5; Pre-K and Kindergarten will use the same form as in years past.
- 3rd to 8th grades ~ grades will now be reported as percentages as opposed to rubric grades. A passing grade is now 65% instead of 70%. We believe this change more accurately reflects what most other high-performing elementary/middle schools use and is more readily understandable to parents and students.

Also, STAR testing began Monday, September 27. Ms. Noll's middle school students were the first to successfully complete the Math portion of the test on the first day. All 3rd through 8th grade students are signed up to take the assessment in both Math and English in the Maker Space lab over the next two weeks. The faculty is receiving training on how to use/interpret the data from these assessments to improve instruction and to identify gaps in student achievement.

Father's Corner

One of the reasons that I am excited to be assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Parish is that I am the spiritual director at Our Lady of Mercy School. I have placed boxes in several of the grades for the students in which they can place their questions about the faith. Those I have answered have been thought provoking and insightful. I also have the opportunity to teach 8th grade theology once a week on the topic: the relationship between faith and reason; religion and science.

Education is an essential part of the mission of the Church. Firstly, because it is one of the spiritual works of mercy. Secondly, it is important because as Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI stated: "All the Church's activities stem from her awareness that she is the bearer of a message which has its origin in God himself... God's desire to make himself known, and the innate desire of all human beings to know the truth, provide the context for human inquiry into the meaning of life...It is in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of our lives becomes clear."

Our Lady of Mercy School

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Parish

olmparish.org
Daily Readings:
uscc.org/readings
Catechism of the
Catholic Church
usccb.org/catechism

Web References

Academic ~ General

Khanacademy.com
(online tutorials for
many subjects)

Literacy

Seussville features
Dr. Seuss's books,
games and activities,
videos and much,
much more!

Starfall is an
educational
alternative to other
entertainment
choices for children."

Mathematics

Fact Monster - Fact
Monster is a free
reference site for
students, teachers,
and parents.

Puzzle Maker -
Create your own
content related
puzzles.

**Art of Problem-
Solving:** 3rd grade
and up; videos are
organized, clear and
free!

Early Childhood

We began our year welcoming new friends and eager scholars. We are settling into our routines nicely. Our second graders have been enjoying using PicCollage and Epic apps on our iPads to practice vocabulary words, read stories, and have stories read to them. Looking ahead, our Kindergarteners will have a visit from a fire fighter for Fire Safety Prevention month in October. Our pre-schoolers will have a Halloween party on Friday, October 28th. We are all looking forward to our Walk-a-thon on October 6th. We hope many family members can join us!

Intermediate Grades

Third graders have been hard at work learning place value through the hundred thousands in math. We have also been using the iPads to review the concepts we are learning in religion as well as completing our first science experiment with water in Google classroom. Fourth graders have been working hard in their Northeast Region Unit. They have learned all of the states and capitals of the Northeast Region and are excited to learn about the Industrial Revolution soon! The fourth grade class will culminate this unit by going on a field trip to Slater Mill to experience what life was like in the Northeast in the mid 1800's, date TBA. In 5th grade science we are working with the science kits that were graciously purchased by the PTG. The students are excited to work with the different components of soil and learning about how rocks are weathered.

Middle School

Middle Schoolers have been learning, creating and innovating. Visits to classroom have seen students practicing public speaking, solving equations, creating works of art inspired by novels, and analyzing primary source documents. The BYOD implementation is running smoothly and successfully. The Middle School teachers are busy planning the first dance (10/14), the annual 8th grade Field of Screams trip (10/20), A Christmas Carol at Trinity Rep (11/10), and Catholic Youth Conference (11/17).

Produce from OLM School Garden



First Day of School



First Day of School



Biomes presentation to the FLL Team

