



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

Thursday, 11/3

OLM Students Eye Assessments

Tuesday, 11/8

Mobile Loaves and Fishes - 8th Grade

No Bus Service - EG students

Wednesday, 11/9

2:45pm
Faculty Meeting

Thursday, 11/10

Middle School Trinity Rep. Field Trip

8:15am Weekly School Mass

Friday, 11/11

Veterans Day - No School

Tuesday, 11/15

8:15am Weekly School Mass

Thursday, 11/17

8:30am
Catholic Youth Conference - 6th, 7th & 8th grade



"The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish."

~ Saint Pope John Paul II

Principal's Message

Does your child have too much homework? How important is reading at night? What if an assignment takes "too long" to complete? How should students "balance" time spent on homework, jazz dance, lacrosse practice and family? And what about weekends and school vacations?

And.....will your Middle School student make the Honor Roll? Is making the Honor Roll important to you or your child? Is the way it's calculated "fair"? Are there other ways we can celebrate student success and achievement? At what grade levels? And how might this look?

I hope I've captured your attention with these thought provoking questions. We should, as a community, take a hard look at these vital issues. I've received significant input from faculty, parents and students the past two years. I believe now is the right time to revisit them.

To craft updated, research-based policies, I will commission two study-groups. Each team will have faculty and parent representatives. As important, students will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and provide input via a Google survey. Policies and practices from other high-performing schools will be consulted and analyzed as well as current educational research.

I look forward to receiving recommendations from these teams by year's end. These recommendations will be used as the foundation by the faculty and me to create final policies for the Student/Parent Handbook.

Father's Corner

As part of the Our Lady of Mercy School Mission Statement reads: "...we seek to develop a good moral character built upon the teachings of the Catholic Church." Part of our mission is to form the consciences of the young men and women who attend our school. Conscience formation is an essential part of being Catholic, and of being human. As the Catechism teaches us: "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform... It is by the judgment of conscience that man perceives and recognizes the precepts of the divine law." It is not enough to simply follow one's conscience. At the very core of every human being is the obligation to do good and to avoid evil, and determining what is good or evil is part of the formation of conscience. This essential part of the mission of our school finds is so important and in particular in one's involvement in civic life.

For more information on the formation of conscience and its relationship to civic life please see:
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>

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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

In October, Father Barrow gave our first graders a tour of our church. They were very excited to explore and learn about many aspects of our altar and sacristy. In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, our kindergartners collected pet goodies and supplies and donated them to two animal shelters. Also, our kindergartners visited grade two to listen to poetry. Looking ahead, our preschoolers and kindergartners will be preparing and enjoying a Thanksgiving celebration and feast. Happy Thanksgiving!

Intermediate Grades

The 3rd grade has been hard at work continuing to building their math and reading skills. We also went on a field trip to Caratunk Nature Reserve in Seekonk to learn about New England's natural environment and how we can benefit from the resources all around us. This trip connected well to our Social Studies lessons focused on renewable and nonrenewable resources. This month the 3rd grade will be working on their first book report. Each student has picked a book on a Native American tribe and will read the book and complete the report in class. When the reports are complete each 3rd grader will have the opportunity to share their report with the rest of the class. The fourth grade recently welcomed ABC 6 Meteorologist, Chelsea Priest for a special lecture and presentation on weather. Students learned about the effects of high and low pressure systems, air masses, and fronts, as well as the life of a weather reporter on live television. We were thrilled that she gave OLM a "shout out" the next morning on her show! In fifth grade the students are very excited to be the first fifth grade class at OLM to be able to bring their own devices to school this year. In 5N, the students are researching explorers and creating trade cards about explorers of their choice. In 5B, the students are exploring ideas about the topic of the week in Religion and writing responses to share in class. In Language Arts students are drafting and revising their writing projects in the Chromebooks. We're having lots of fun using this technology in the classroom.

Middle School

The month of October has been a busy one for MS. Classroom visits have seen students studying point of view in LA, graphing functions and solving equations in Math, identifying the causes of World War I in History, studying earthquakes and cells in Science, and much more. Students had a blast at the Halloween dance, and the 8th graders had a scream on the haunted hayride! We are looking forward to field trips to Trinity Rep to see A Christmas Carol and the Cathedral for the Catholic Youth Conference this month.

8th Grade "Pink Out" Dress Down Day



L.S.S. Program Halloween celebration

