

# Wednesday Notes



December 20, 2023

Dear OLM School Community,

This will be our last big communication before we head off for Christmas break. From all of us at OLM School, we wish you and your family a most blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and holy new year!

Please read below for details about the end of this week. The next two days should be a lot of fun as we head into Christmas vacation!

For Christ and Our Kids,  
Patrick McNabb  
Principal

## The Week Ahead

**Thursday, December 21** PK & K Polar Express Day

**Thursday, December 21** Choir Practice 2:30-3:15 pm

**Thursday, December 21** Mock Trial Practice 2:30-3:30 pm

**Friday, December 22** FREE Christmas Dress Down Day!

**Friday, December 22** Middle School Breakfast 8:30 am

**Friday, December 22** Advent Prayer Service 10:30 am

**Friday, December 22** 11:30 am Dismissal; **No After-School Extended Day**

**December 25- January 2** Christmas Vacation!

**Wednesday, January 3** School Resumes

**Friday, January 5** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)

## The Week in Review

Last Friday included a concert from Bishop Hendricken High School's Jazz Band and Young Men's Choir before our own students took center stage in our evening Christmas Pageant. It was quite the day at OLM!



# Heading into Christmas

## A few key points as we wrap up this week and head into Christmas Vacation:

- Friday, December 22 is a FREE Christmas Dress Down Day. Break out the ugly Christmas sweaters and the Santa hats before we all say goodbye for the holiday!
- This Friday is also a half day, and **there is no after-school extended day**. Dismissal will run as follows:
  - 11:15-11:20 am: Grades PK-2
  - 11:20-11:25 am: Grades 3-5
  - 11:25-11:30 am: Grades 6-8
- We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 3. **There is no school on Tuesday, January 2.**

## OLM Athletics News

### Basketball Highlights!

Here's a recap of this weekend's basketball games:

- First, a correction to last week's Top Scorer recognition. **Luciana Calero** led the Girls Junior team in scoring against St. Mary, Mansfield. Well done, Luciana!
- This weekend the Jaguars were 4-1 in CAL games. The Boys Grammar team earned a huge win over Bishop Hendricken, winning 52-19.
- Congratulations to the following players who were selected as Defensive Player of the Game:

**Ellie Rielly**  
**Grace Mitchell**  
**Dexter Fernandes**  
**Louis Johnston**  
**JP Vieira**

Our Girls Grammar team will be in action vs. Monsignor Clarke this Thursday, December 21 at 5pm.

Also, the full CAL game schedule is expected to be released this week. Coaches will be able pass along each team's remaining regular season game schedule (January 6 through March 3, 2024) once released.

### Go Jags!

### New Athletics Offerings

We recently announced that we are exploring the addition of two new OLM Athletics offerings – Cheer (Winter 2024) and Middle School Softball (Spring 2024). There are two surveys (links below) that will help us gauge commitment and determine feasibility of launching one or both programs this school year. Thus far, the response has been very positive! We will keep the survey open through the end of year. **If you have not yet responded but wish to do so, we ask that you complete these brief surveys by Friday, January 5.**



For those who have responded, watch your email for more information about both Cheer and Softball in early January 2024.

[Click Here if You Are Interested in Cheer!](#)

[Click Here if You Are Interested in Middle School Softball!](#)

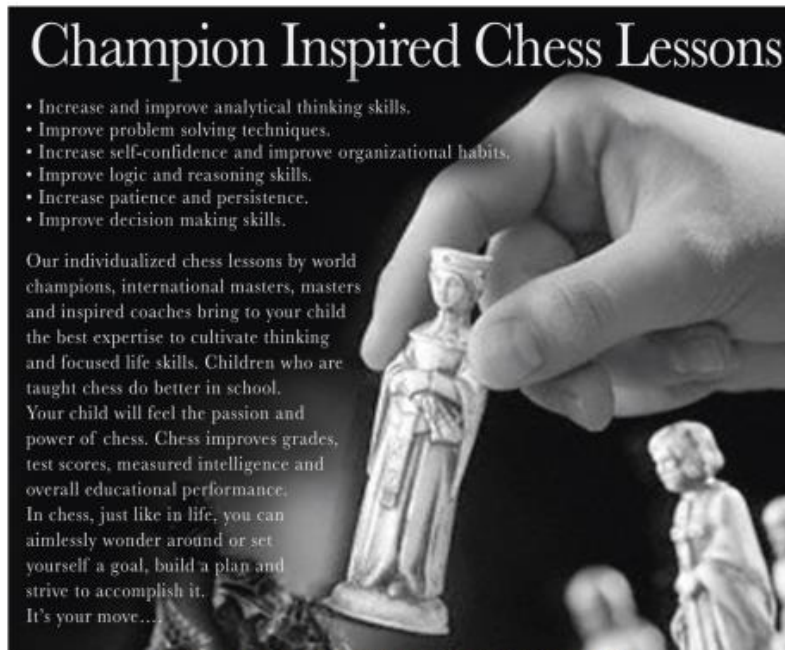
Please direct any questions to Jerry O'Connell, OLM Athletic Director, at [joconnell@olmschool.org](mailto:joconnell@olmschool.org)

## PTG News



# Chess Is Returning!

We are pleased to announce the return of a very popular program with Chess Master Connections! Information about the program and a sign-up form came home in last week's Wednesday Envelopes, and both can be accessed again by clicking the button below. The program is open to students in all grade levels, and will meet for eight Monday afternoons beginning January 8. Please check out the flyer for details!



**Champion Inspired Chess Lessons**

- Increase and improve analytical thinking skills.
- Improve problem solving techniques.
- Increase self-confidence and improve organizational habits.
- Improve logic and reasoning skills.
- Increase patience and persistence.
- Improve decision making skills.

Our individualized chess lessons by world champions, international masters, masters and inspired coaches bring to your child the best expertise to cultivate thinking and focused life skills. Children who are taught chess do better in school. Your child will feel the passion and power of chess. Chess improves grades, test scores, measured intelligence and overall educational performance. In chess, just like in life, you can aimlessly wonder around or set yourself a goal, build a plan and strive to accomplish it. It's your move....

## OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL

and Chess Master Connections (CMC) are proud to offer chess instruction, for all levels of chess and the life skills of winning and losing well, creating a plan and following it, focusing on you and your opponent's actions and the importance of creativity are all masterfully imparted throughout their instruction.

*CMC* chess programs are dynamic, thoughtful, and *FUN*

Learn how to THINK through the game of CHESS

*Boys and girls are welcome!*

*Beginner - Intermediate - Advanced*

**8-week session: \$136**

Make checks payable to Chess Master Connections

**Dates:**

January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 4, 11

**Time:** 2:30 to 3:30 pm

[www.chessmasterconnections.com](http://www.chessmasterconnections.com)

[Click Here for Chess Master Connections Registration Form!](#)

# Interested in Music Lessons?

Earlier this fall, Mr. Jack Rametta, OLM alumni parent and former band director, spoke to students in Grades 4-8 about the possibility of signing up for private music lessons, building toward the re-establishment of our longstanding band program.

And he is still accepting new students in Grades 4-8! If your child may be interested in beginning one of the instruments listed below, please fill out the form (it has come home previously and is linked again at the bottom of this section), and return it to the main office. Thank you very much!

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIGN-UP FORM

Dear OLM parents,

Your student's music class hosted an instrumental music demonstration today, where several band instruments were demonstrated by Jack Rametta. The OLM instrumental music program was started in 2001 by Jack Rametta when his children were OLM students, and he's been gratified to see so many prior OLM band students prosper in their careers.

Recently, Principal McNabb and Mr. Rametta met to decide the best way forward for the program, post-pandemic. It was decided that Mr. Rametta will offer OLM students private, semi-private and/or group lessons, based upon instrument selection and available scheduling. You can learn more about Mr. Rametta at [johnrametta.com](http://johnrametta.com).

### When are the lessons?

Our goal is to schedule students who choose the same instrument to have lessons together. We won't know the actual schedule until all students have registered, but the plan is to schedule all lessons **one day per week (TBD), between the hours of 5pm-8pm**. Lessons will last approximately 30 minutes. Parents will be responsible to drop-off and collect students at the music room.

### What you'll need

**AN INSTRUMENT** - The instrument choices are pictured below. (Please note: piano, bass or guitar students must already have basic skills to participate). The instruments below can be purchased or rented at Robert's Music in Warwick (Papa Gino's Plaza). Robert's offers a rental/ex-change program that allows students to change instruments within the 1st six months with no penalty. Please remember to mention that your child attends OLM.



### What's the cost?

The **program fee is \$150**, which covers the full school year. The cost of method books is included. Billing for the program will go through FACTS. The program will conclude in May 2024 with a concert for parents and friends.

### Why instrumental music?

Musicians generally have higher SAT scores (about 100 points), favorable decisions by college admissions boards, increased brain development, lower levels of alcohol, tobacco, or drug abuse, and increased confidence in oral presentations.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO EITHER THE HOMEROOM TEACHER OR FRONT OFFICE

My child \_\_\_\_\_ in grade \_\_\_\_\_ is interested in playing \_\_\_\_\_.

Name

Instrument (can list more than one)

Please list any evenings that conflict with your student's schedule \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission for my child to participate. I understand that if scheduling cannot be arranged, I won't be billed for the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

[Click Here for Instrumental Music Sign-Up Form!](#)

# Preparing to Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering at OLM School during the 2023-2024 school year? Because we take the moral and physical safety of our students very seriously, there are steps that all volunteers must take before beginning:

BCI and Safe Environment Training paperwork must be processed in order to allow parents/grandparents to volunteer at OLM on field trips, in classrooms, etc.

Here are the steps that all prospective volunteers must complete:

- [OLM Volunteer Application](#) - complete this form.
- [BCI application](#) - complete this form - which must be notarized by a Notary Public. Attach a copy of the **FRONT** and **BACK** of your driver's license. The school pays the \$5.00 processing fee.
- [Safe Environment Training](#) - complete this form once you have reviewed the following links:
  - [Safe Environment Training Link](#)
  - [Safe Environment Code of Ethical Conduct Link](#)
  - [Safe Environment Extract Link](#)

Please send/bring all these forms/documents to the front office once you have completed them so we can submit them for processing. **Please note the process can take a few weeks, so the time to act is now!**

**Thank you for working with us to ensure the safety and well-being of all students at OLM School!**

## Wednesday Envelope

**Nothing This Week!**

## Upcoming Dates

**Thursday, December 21** PK & K Polar Express Day

**Friday, December 22** FREE Christmas Dress Down Day!

**Friday, December 22** Middle School Breakfast 8:30 am

**Friday, December 22** Advent Prayer Service 10:30 am

**Friday, December 22** 11:30 am Dismissal; **No After-School Extended Day**

**December 25-January 2** Christmas Vacation

**Wednesday, January 3** School Resumes

**Friday, January 5** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)

**Monday, January 8** Chess Master Connections Begins  
**Monday, January 15** NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
**Tuesday, January 16** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday, January 24** Second Trimester Progress Reports Go Home  
**Thursday, January 25** Class of 2024 Science Fair  
**Sunday, January 28** Open House 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
**January 28-February 2** Catholic Schools Week!  
**Friday, February 2** First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**Friday, February 2** Middle School Dance 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Saturday, February 10** Father-Daughter Dance 5:00-8:00 pm  
**Tuesday, February 13** PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday, February 14** Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)  
**February 19-23** February Vacation

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**Merry Christmas!**