



C.A.R.E. News

Newsletter – March 12, 2008

www.CareNews.org

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School *preparations underway*

Mr. Mike Johnson, principal of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, is actively working on everything that needs to be done to open our new parish school this fall. He has also answered some of the many questions posted on the C.A.R.E. News web site.

Q: When will teachers & other staff be hired?

A: I have begun meeting with teachers and have assured an interview to any internal candidates. These meetings will begin next week and final interviews will happen shortly after Easter.

Q: How many children have pre-registered to attend Our Lady of Grace this fall?

A: Currently we have over 700 pre-registered

- K – 43 / 1 – 81 / 2 – 73 / 3 – 84 / 4 – 90 / 5 – 88 / 6 – 85 / 7 – 77 / 8 – 85

Q: When will school hours be determined?

A: We are in the process of determining school hours. This is largely dependent on coordinating busing services. Three of the four school districts we serve provide busing so finding a time that works for all is a top priority. I believe we are close (within a week) of having this finalized.

Q: When will we hear more on busses?

A: Within the next week is my hope.

Q: What will be the cost of the latchkey program?

A: While the exact dollar amount has not been determined, the latchkey will be in-house – that is, we will not be hiring in a third party contract for the services. This will both save money and provide us the opportunity to shape this important programmatic element of our community.

Q: Will an early drop-off time be available at Our Lady of Grace?

A: Yes, early drop-off will be available. A time will be decided once we have determined our school hours.

Q: When will School Calendar be issued?

A: The school calendar is in process. We have most of the dates needed to put it together and we will be putting this in front of the Education Commission by the end of next month.

Q: Will 8th graders have to purchase new uniforms? This can be pretty expensive for one year?

A: This is a great question that we will take up with the Education Commission. Parental input through commission reps will be helpful.

Q: When will school colors & mascot be chosen? (athletic uniform impact)

A: We are meeting regarding this issue later this week or early next week.

Q: Will IEP & speech therapy available?

A: Yes, we are currently considering the support services needed for OLG. We are looking at what each school had in the past as well as benchmarking our offerings based on like schools. We are still a few weeks away from finalizing this.

Q: Will we have music & chorale programs? With parental involvement?

A: Yes, we will have a music curriculum, liturgical music opportunities as well as chorale opportunities. Parental involvement will be welcomed (and necessary) as we move forward.

Q: Will we have a Junior Honor Society & Cantor Program? We currently have these at Assumption.

A: Yes on JHS and I've requested more information on the "Cantor Program".

Q: Will we have an Academic Team?

A: Yes, we have been successful in the past and bringing us all together will enhance this program.

Q: What about piano, creative writing, experiential science and math, language, dance?

A: Yes to all of them in a variety of forms... course offerings, enrichment programs, etc.

Q: Will we have a gifted program?

A: There will be opportunities for enrichment in this area and our hope is that our schedule is going to allow teachers to differentiate instruction based on abilities within their classroom. This is an ongoing discussion. Challenging each student is of the utmost importance and will be a guiding factor in the creation of our schedule (especially for grades 5-8).

Also a couple other notes ...

- The \$50.00 discount for prepaying your tuition in advance is now per student, not per family as previously indicated. EX: If you have 2 children enrolled and you are paying the full tuition in advance, your discount is \$100.00. The deadline for paying in advance is August 1, 2008.
- Any staff member, volunteer, booster member... who has been previously fingerprinted for Assumption, Little Flower, St. Margaret Mary or St. Ann participation DOES NOT have to get refingerprinted. (The only people who do are school aides for their annual certification and teachers for their 5 year certification.)

Mr. Johnson will continue to keep parents & parishioners updated using the C.A.R.E. News web site (www.carenews.org) and the C.A.R.E. News email.

To have the C.A.R.E. newsletter emailed to you automatically as they are issued, go to www.CareNews.org. While you are there, you can also ask questions or leave comments and feedback for Mr. Johnson and the Steering Committee.