



C.A.R.E. News

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Our Lady of Grace Catholic School *Preparations continue ... new questions ... more answers*

Mr. Mike Johnson, principal of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, continues his efforts to prepare Our Lady of Grace to open this coming fall. Once again, Mr. Johnson also takes time to answer questions you have posted on the C.A.R.E. News web site.

Q: I, as well as many other parents am very excited about what has been released so far regarding Our Lady of Grace. My thought is on the prospect of foreign languages. Will German be a possible choice?

A: I too am excited about what we are doing at OLG. There is an amazing base of support for this school and the time and talent of our students, parents, faculty and community leaders is much appreciated. I am very excited to see the number of questions regarding foreign language. The need to know and understand language and culture continues to grow and OLG is positioning itself to be a leader in this area. There are many questions and pieces of the puzzle to put together at this point but in the ideal that we are working towards, German would be an option... how is that for a teaser?!

Q: My grandson will attend Our Lady of Grace this fall. He is a very good student. Will OLG offer enrichment classes in subjects? Alternatively, will the students be grouped according to their abilities?

A: "Ability grouping" and "tracking" are two different tools used in schools today. Sometimes we use the terms interchangeably. No, we will not be doing tracking at OLG (at least not at this point). However, there will be opportunities for ability and mixed ability groupings within classes. These groups are one way teachers can differentiate their instruction within their classroom. There will be enrichment opportunities at OLG but to define those at this point is impossible given the breadth of the quality programs already in existence in our schools. Enrichment opportunities will be a topic of conversation for students, parents and faculty as we continue to move towards opening the doors of OLG.

Now Forming.....

Our Lady of Grace

Parent Teacher Organization

Please attend our get-together

April 17, 2008

St. Margaret Mary Parish

Madonna Hall (Gym)

7:00PM

Please join us for refreshments and socializing!!

Babysitting available

Door Prizes

Split the Pot



Q: When you are determining the discipline policy, will you reevaluate the responsibility program or come up with a different or better plan? Kids shouldn't get in trouble for something the parents didn't do.

A: One of the philosophical underpinnings of my ideas on discipline is that little offenses should not add up to big consequences. I like the fact that issues of responsibility are being differentiated from behavioral concerns. I do think the consequences for these two types of concerns need to be different. As we work to create our behavioral program we will take your concerns into consideration.

Q: An acquaintance has received an EdChoice voucher and would like to enroll his 6th grader at Our Lady of Grace; however, he is currently on an IEP. This child has fallen through the public system cracks. Can OLG accommodate him? Is he eligible to enroll and if so, how does he go about it?

A: All students new to OLG (i.e. students that have not been attending one of our four parish schools) will be assessed to ensure that we can meet their educational needs. On top of the assessment we will interview the student and talk with his or her parent(s)/guardian(s). Many students on an IEP receive services that we cannot provide. Some students are receiving services we can accommodate. We are not able to work from the individual's IEP as there are legal implications to those documents. We can, however, develop individualized service plans as we work to meet the unique needs of each of our learners. So, if OLG can serve this student on the path towards fulfilling his/her potential then yes, we would welcome him/her if there is room. That determination is made on a case-by-case basis. People interested in enrolling should call St. Ann's and speak with Mrs. Cytraus.

Q: What about spirit wear? Will Our Lady of Grace have its own spirit shop? I know at Assumption & St. Ann's, if you want spirit wear you get it from the Athletic Boosters. At St.MM we had our own spirit shop separate from the PTO and boosters. I know this is trivial but it is something to think about.

A: We have not made decisions regarding spirit wear and where it will be sold. We will let you know. In the mean time, give us a month or so and then call the office and we will be able to get your closet stocked with OLG spirit wear.

Q: I was wondering what the color of the uniform shirts is going to be next year. I was wondering if we can have a dark shirt color; like a dark blue or green or even a red. I have talked to several parents and we agree that when you have a white or light colored shirt like a light blue it is very hard to keep clean of stains - especially on boys.

A: Thanks for the feedback. We have a group of parents working on putting together a recommendation to our Education Commission as we speak. I will make sure they get this information. Take care!

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.