



# C.A.R.E. News

Newsletter – April 30, 2008

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## **Our Lady of Grace Catholic School** *this week's Q&A's*

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 still have not heard any communication regarding how/how not the new OLG School system will be supported with current public school district(s) busing. When will this information be released?

**A:** Busing to OLG is going to be provided by Mt. Healthy, Northwest and Cincinnati Public. All three districts are aware of our start and end time and have told us they will route us accordingly. I have no other details at this point. Cincinnati Public just got a new transportation director and Northwest is going through major restructuring of schools and thus having to totally revise their routing of buses. Believe it or not, those changes seemed to have helped us in establishing our school day.

**Q:** I know a lot of schools in our area have "late start" or "early dismissal" and I was wondering if this was going to happen at OLG? If so, would Latch Key be available for "early dismissals"? There are a lot of single or 2 parent working families and it is VERY hard to make arrangements to accommodate this.

**A:** I am not an advocate of late starts or early dismissals. I figure if we (parents) go through the hassle of getting them dressed and ready in the morning they are sticking around for the full day! I agree with you, half days are not very family friendly when most households have two workers. We will keep your feedback in mind as we continue to develop our calendar.

**Q:** I would love to be involved any activities over the summer where my daughter will be able to meet her new classmates but am also planning our family vacation. Any clue when the school schedule will be published along with any OLG activities during the summer?

**A:** The schedule is close, I am in the process of submitting a copy of it to the Archdiocese. Once we get the clear there we will do some final touches on it and then get it out for everyone to see. The summer activities will be scheduled at a variety of dates over the summer to accommodate the various vacation plans that are currently being made.

**Q:** It is time to order uniforms for next year. As parents, we need time to plan and budget for this, especially since the girls' skirts are quite expensive. Can you give us a timeframe when we will be given this information to order?

**A:** The Education Commission will be given the recommendation of the Uniform Committee at their May 5th meeting. Once they review the recommendations, make any revisions and finish up the uniform policy we will forward the details. The uniform policies are in the works and will be announced shortly after the May 5 meeting.

**Q:** Is there a process in place so that parents from all schools are being notified of information at the same time? I have ran into some parents from the other schools and they know far more than I'm reading in the weekly newsletters. For example, they know which teachers have been hired, the school mascot name and the school colors.

**A:** At this point information is being announced through the CARE emails and web page. That said, when I get the chance to be in front of parents, I also talk about our progress. I have realized that some in our community know what I am thinking before I do (lol) and word travels fast. We are talking about how to

universally announce the mascot and colors (especially in the parishes). Right now the logo is being designed and we look to unfold the entire package as soon as we can. We are the "Eagles" and our main color is light blue. We are seeking input from the boosters on the secondary colors. The naming committee did a great job weighing current colors, our school name (blue is tough to get away from when you are "Our Lady of Grace") and the image of the school we wish to put forth. The colors resemble none of the covenant schools'. The main color is light blue - see below ... think University of North Carolina.



Q: You keep talking about "languages" and I was wondering if this was going to be mandatory or was it a class the kids have an options to take? My kids go to St. Ann and when they reach 5th grade they have an activity period where they can pick Drama, Newspaper, Student Council, etc. How is the "Language Program" going to work?

A: We are working on the schedule at this point and I hope to be able to answer your questions over the next couple of weeks.

Q: Will Kindergarten have a dedicated full-time teacher (only teaches all day kids) instead of a half-day program repeated or enriched? When will the teacher list be announced?

A: Yes, there will be full day kindergarten with dedicated teachers. Currently we are looking into adding a third section of Kindergarten. We will discuss this further at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten parent meeting.

Regarding the teacher list, below are the teachers we have hired to work at Our Lady of Grace School. I did not indicate specific grade levels and subject areas as there will likely be changes made in a couple of areas. Once we have firmed up enrollment and made final assignments we will let you know.

Adams, Heather  
Bauman, Kate  
Bedinghaus, Joanne  
Braun, Annette  
Ceddia, Pam  
Collins, Beth  
Duryea, Nancy  
Fischer, Mary Jo  
Fischer, Patty  
Fischesser, Deborah  
Flynn, Stormy  
Frey, Jenny

Grundy, Cindy  
Hartel, Marita  
Hite, Claire  
Hotze, Sue  
Jordan, Carol  
Kist, Mallory  
Kluener, Kelley  
Mays, Amanda  
Muro, Jane  
Nagel, Debby  
Ogg, Terry  
Renick, Beth

Ries, Rick  
Robers, Nancy  
Rush, JoAnn  
Ruzick, Marilyn  
Schulkers, Patricia  
Simcoe, Jack  
Smock, Kathryn  
Thompson, Bernice  
Vidourek, Diane  
Woestman, Nancy

Q: I'm confused about the religion class comments (being taught in homeroom, not a core class, etc.)? Could you explain this more?

A: All of our students will be engaged in a comprehensive Religious education program (it is a core class). There are a couple of schools of thought on how best to accomplish this. Given who we are at OLG my personal belief is that we want as many people in the building working on the faith formation of our students as possible. This scenario creates a culture that expresses our total commitment to formation. Most (if not all) of our teachers would be engaged in teaching religion and as such assume responsibility for this aspect of our communal life.

Q: I have registered my daughter for kindergarten and have some questions. Is there going to be a half day kindergarten class? If so, are these students going to miss out on material that is taught only to the full day class? I would not want my daughter to be behind in the first grade. Full day kindergarten would be great for my daughter however I am questioning the price difference of \$650 compared to regular full day tuition for grades 1-8. I have been told that it is more expensive because kindergarten needs to be self-supported. I feel that each parish should support kindergarten just as they do for the upper grades. In 2008 how can the Archdiocese not recognize the need for kindergarten? Paying the extra \$650 would be a financial burden on my family. I hope the resolution is coming soon. Thank you for your time. By the way I think you are doing a great job and I am very excited to have you as our principal at OLG school.

A: Thanks for your question and kind words. While both the half day and full day Kindergarten programs would prepare our students for success in first grade, it is true that the all day Kindergarten program will cover more ground. It is the professional opinion of our faculty that the amount of material needing to be covered in Kindergarten is best suited for the full day program. That said, we are looking into the feasibility of offering a half day program as we understand that some families may prefer this option (for a variety of reasons). We will shoot to have an answer regarding this third section of Kindergarten clarified in the 5/14 CARE Newsletter. As to the costs of the programs, I will look into that.

Q: As I was sitting in church Sunday morning listening to Fr. Jerry talk about the up coming First Communion at St. Margaret Mary's I was wondering with the new school will the children still receive First Communion at their home parish or together at one church?

A: While we will be doing Sacramental preparation at OLG the actual first celebrations will happen in the parishes. Special "second celebrations" will probably happen at school so that we can celebrate the faith journey of our students.

#### **and from OLG admin ...**

Q: I thought I had read something in a previous answer session saying that tuition payments would begin in May. May and June are always our months off and I had planned to take that money and pay part of my LaSalle tuition for my son who is starting there next year. I really would like to know if this is the case because with having four children in Catholic education and no assistance I really need to plan. Thanks!

A: They will have the option to start in May or June.

Q: I would like to know how the situation with the La Salle money was resolved. I am very much opposed to running it through the new schools athletic department.

A: These funds will not be going exclusively to the athletics, because we do not have any idea how much it is yet and there has been no discussion of where it will be used. It will be used for OLG and we will let everyone know when it is decided.

#### **Comments:**

*Pertaining to the question of the PTO notes ... It was reported that Evie Trentman took down minutes from the PTO meeting on the 17th.*

*Mr. Johnson will continue to keep parents & parishioners updated using the C.A.R.E. News web site ([www.carenews.org](http://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](http://www.CareNews.org). While you are there, you can also ask questions or leave comments and feedback for Mr. Johnson and the Steering Committee.*