



C.A.R.E. News

Newsletter – May 28, 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: With lunch in the gym, how will this affect the use of the gym as a "gym" for Phys Ed classes? Will this have to be torn down and set up each day? How will this affect the use of the gym by the St. Ann Parish since it is the "parish center"?

A: We will be setting it up and taking it down each day. We will be using tables from Little Flower that fold and roll to make the transitions easier. We are in the process of figuring out the lunch schedule and are building the PE schedule around the lunchroom needs. This should not affect the use of the gym by St. Ann's in any way.

Q: The calendar for next year has our Easter break 4/17-4/24. From what I found on the internet, the Catholic calendar has it as the 12th.

A: Since we are a Roman Catholic school and not an Orthodox school, we too will celebrate Easter on the 12th! Sorry about that! The dates for break are updated on line but we will be out on the 10th-17th for Easter.

Q: When will it be decided about the latchkey and out of school daycare program?

Q: Has the latch key program been finalized yet? We would like to know the rates.

A: We have compiled data from a survey done by Kathy Smock, our Latchkey Director. Now that we have an idea of our numbers (and they are very strong) we anticipate being able to answer questions regarding policies and costs shortly.

Q: My daughter recently received a demerit for inadvertently doing the wrong page of her math homework. I thought this was unreasonable and expressed my feelings to the teacher. All I received from her was technicalities from the school hand book like she was a trial lawyer, sticking to the letter of the law. What rules will be set in place regarding the giving of demerits at OLG? This teacher responded like she had no discretion in the matter and her hands were tied.

A: We are currently working on the Behavioral Code for our handbook. I believe that we must be intentional about connecting behavioral choices to consequences. There is, in most cases, a natural consequence to almost all of our behavior. Our handbook will reflect this ideal. Our very lofty goal is to create a plan that focuses on nurturing students to be internally motivated to behave well as opposed to creating a system totally dependent on external motivators to illicit desired behaviors. When students engage in actions that put members of the community at risk (physically, emotionally, etc.) there will be externally motivated consequences to their behavior. However, we will use the daily successes and annoyances to teach our students about the control they have over their own lives and how the choices they make affect not only them but the students around them. In this process we will ensure open and clear communication with parents/guardians.

Q: I have been looking online for polo style shirts for my son's uniform, and all the shirts that I have found so far only have 2 buttons. Would it be possible to allow this style instead of the 3 button shirt which would have to be purchased from the uniform supplier at a greater price than if parents were able to comparison shop for the 2 button style at other stores?

A: Thanks for the question. I did some research and found that some of the school uniform shops online do carry only a two button polo shirt. There are some that carry the 3 button shirt. Since the three button policy has been approved by the Education Commission, I will bring this back to them for consideration. Thanks.

Q: Will there be a day that we may meet our teachers and get a time to know them? Maybe a day at each school before it gets to late or even a night where you could go to one church and meet them?

A: This is a great suggestion. We are considering the various opportunities we have to continue building the relationships that will facilitate learning at OLG. More on this will be announced prior to the end of the school year.

Q: Has the third Kindergarten teacher been selected? If so, how was the teacher selected? Was the position posted and open for everyone to apply for?

A: Yes, the third Kindergarten teacher was selected. We moved Beth Collins from the first grade into the Kindergarten position. This opened up a position in the first grade. Given that we have teachers currently employed at covenant schools interested in securing a position at OLG we considered the qualified internal candidates for the first grade position and have extended an offer to Amanda Minor. She has accepted the position and we are excited to have her on board. Ms. Minor brings extensive classroom experience to OLG along with a love of foreign languages.

and from OLG admin ...

Q: Could you please explain the governance of Our Lady of Grace? And how does it differ from what we're used to seeing in our current parish school? Or is it pretty much the same?

A: The governance of Our Lady of Grace is very similar to what each of the present covenant parishes has for their Education Commissions. The differences are that this governance consists of two appointed representatives from each of the 4 covenant parishes, and the four pastors (one of whom acts as the Juridical Pastor.) The Juridical Pastor is appointed by the covenant pastors and acts on their behalf. His term of office is for one year. The Juridical Pastor for 2008-2009 is Fr. Goebel, pastor of Little Flower.

Members of OLG's Education Commission:

Lynn Schultz, Melissa Connely, Ann Gruenwald (Recorder), Gail Kelly, Bill Johansing, Katie Lienhart, Susan Zapf, Nancy Gamm (Chair), Mike Johnson, Fr. Kennedy, Fr. Goebel, Fr. Dennemann, Fr. Gardner

NOTE: If you missed any of the C.A.R.E. News weekly Q&A emails, you can always access them at <http://www.carenews.org/QandA.htm>

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.