

A Very Important Message from Ms. B...

It's hard to believe that our summer is already coming to an end. The weather is changing and hopefully, it will last.



New Staff:

We are very excited to have two new members on our staff this year: Allison Podmore will be teaching 6th grade Language Arts and 6/7th grade Reading. She is looking forward to meeting our junior high students and exploring great writers and excellent writing. Kelly Routt will be teaching Music and Dramatic Arts. We are very proud to be working to revamp OLL's Fine Arts program with the institution of our new Dramatic Arts and Public Speaking class. Grades 4-8 will take Dramatic Arts and Public Speaking; we believe this addition will not only enhance our Fine Arts program but will also give our students skills that they will need in order to be better public speakers. Growing our students' confidence in public speaking can also enhance leadership skills.

I know our students have been eager to hear about the first few days before school. We have tried to make a few of our procedures more efficient; please read the following information carefully.

Packet Pick-Up:

You can pick up your "Parent Packet" which will include your student's homeroom, emergency medical forms, the student handbook, and other forms we usually pass out the first day of school necessary for a successful school year. It is our belief that this will allow teachers to begin their instruction with as little classroom disruption as possible. The "Parent Packets" can be picked up after each Mass August 19-20. They will be located in the Gathering Space as you enter the church. Any parent who is unable to pick up their packets can do so Monday morning outside the main office.

Meet the Teacher Evening:

Monday evening we will be hosting Meet the Teacher Night before school starts from 6-8pm. It is our hope that meeting teachers before the school year starts, parent/guardians will fully understand the expectations, requirements, and hopes for a successful school year for our students. This event is not intended for students and geared towards parents/guardians.

We realize that there might be a lot of supplies, perhaps too many for some students to bring in the first day. Therefore, Monday evening before Meet the Teacher, parents/guardians can begin dropping off any supplies at 5:45pm. Please make sure supplies are clearly marked with the student's name. We will begin with opening remarks in the New Gym at 6pm. Parents/guardians will hear about the expectations of the Our Lady of Lourdes' school community and a few of the exciting things we have planned for this year. We will hear a few words from Fr. Len as well as be introduced to several members of various organizations in our community including the PTO, the Education Commission, and the Athletic Club. Once opening remarks are finished we will proceed to teacher's classrooms in order to meet their teachers. We will indicate where each teacher or team of teachers will meet. There will be three sessions, 20 minutes each where teachers will introduce themselves, discuss their class with the parents/guardians and a 10 minute break between each session. If you have more than one student at OLL, this will give you an opportunity to meet several teachers, including our Specials teachers.

Please do not use this time to give our faculty pertinent information, including health issues as there will not be an opportunity for confidentiality. We are hoping with the early receipt of the forms, we will be informed immediately of students' needs.

First Day/Week Info:

Our first day of school is August 23rd; the 23-25 will be early dismissal days, dismissing at 1pm. There will be **no** bus service for **CPS** however, there **will** be bus service for **Oak Hills**. There will be no After Care this week. The first day of school, students are expected to be in dress code including appropriate hairstyles. All of the dress code information can be found in the student handbook, contained in the "Parent Packet" and on the website. I have also attached the handbook pages for reference. The cafeteria will be closed the first week. Each teacher will indicate what students will need to bring to eat or drink this week. Students will be allowed clear water bottles filled only with water when the weather is very warm. Teacher also give frequent water breaks during the hot months to keep students hydrated. Primary students will meet their teachers either in the cafeteria or right outside the cafeteria the first few days of school. It's always exciting on the first day to meet your teacher for the very first time. New students will be given a "buddy" to help with schedules the first few days. If any student is running late, we will have several junior high students to meet our new primary "cubs" and get them to class.

After Care:

After Care will begin August 28th. One important change this year is Before Care will not be offered this year due to lack of interest. The cafeteria will be open at 7:30am every morning unless we have a Late Arrival or inclement weather. We are still searching for an After Care Director. If you know of anyone who might be interested, have the candidate send their resume to me at hbessler@lourdes.org.

One of the first changes you may notice is the office. I would like to thank the very gracious donor who came in and spent the day reconfiguring the office and putting it together, including the new furniture, making it more efficient. I appreciate everything that this donor has done for our school.

I certainly hope that this summer has been restful and relaxing one and our students have been able to work on Moby Max, increasing their skills in Reading and Math. It's going to be a great joy working with you and your students this year and we hope each of them will build confidence, leadership, faith, and academic success. So, as all of Our Leaders Learn, let's **Focus on Straight A's**.

Ms. B

Remember:

August 19 after 4:00 Mass and
August 20th after both 9am and 11am Mass:
 "Parent Packet" in the Gathering Space of church
August 21st 6-8 pm: Meet the Teacher Night
August 23: First Day
August 23-25: Early Dismissal with no bus service for CPS.
August 28th: Picture Day