



# OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL NEWS

August 28, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope all of our students are adjusting well to being back to school. This school year, we are introducing a new school-wide theme, "Let your light shine." This is rooted in the biblical passage from the Gospel of Matthew (5:16): "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven," and emphasizes several key aspects that align with the mission of Catholic education:

- 💡 The theme encourages students to recognize and celebrate their unique gifts and talents, understanding that these are given by God for a purpose, and to use their abilities to serve others.
- 💡 It reminds students that their actions can be a testimony to their faith. By living according to Christian values, they become beacons of light in the world, inspiring others and leading by example.
- 💡 In Catholic education, students are taught that their faith must be expressed through love and service. The theme encourages them to engage in acts of charity, demonstrating Christ's love to the world.
- 💡 The phrase also relates to the development of moral character by encouraging students to grow in virtues such as kindness, humility, and integrity, reflecting the light of Christ in their daily interactions. This growth is central to the mission of Catholic education, which aims to form morally and spiritually grounded individuals.
- 💡 "Let your light shine" fosters a sense of community, where each person's light contributes to the collective brightness. It emphasizes the importance of supporting one another and working together.
- 💡 It serves as a message of hope and encouragement. It reassures students that even in challenging times, their light - faith, hope, and love - can bring positive change.

I am excited to see how all of our students will be "shining their light" throughout this 2024-25 school year!

Grace and Peace,

*Mrs. Jennifer Thompson*

Principal



## NEWS & REMINDERS

**FRIDAY/MONDAY:** **This Fri, Aug. 30 is a 12:30pm dismissal**, and there is no school on Labor Day.

**ROOM PARENTS:** We need one room parent for each grade (PK-8). A meeting will be held at 3:15pm today. Attendance is mandatory (unless coordinated separately) in order to be selected to be a room parent.

**VIRTUS TRAINING CLASS:** Effective Sep. 1, the required Virtus Child Protection Program training course will be completed online, rather than as a scheduled Zoom meeting. Please check the Virtus site for more info.

**VOLUNTEERING:** Please do not sign up to volunteer for in-school events unless you have completed the Virtus Child Protection Program, and your fingerprints and background check have been cleared in your Virtus account. If you sign up to volunteer and cannot make it, please call the School Office so that a replacement can be found.

**OLSS SEAHAWKS BASKETBALL:** All students in grades 5-8 (in good academic standing) are welcome to join the OLSS Basketball teams. Please submit the registration form (included with today's news) and payment by Sep. 25. Our Athletic Director, Mrs. Nehf, will be at Back to School Night on Sep. 10 to share more info.

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT** will be held on **Tue, Sep. 10**, starting at 6:30pm and is for parents/guardians only. After introducing our teachers, Home & School Association President will share info on the HSA this year's many volunteer opportunities. Parents will then visit their children's classrooms for 15-minute sessions.



★ WE ARE ONE ★

## OLSS Parish/School Picnic & Ministry Fair

Sunday, October 6  
11:00am – 4:00pm

- ★ The Knights of Columbus will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers.
- ★ Please sign up to bring a side or dessert;
- ★ Entertainment will also be provided with music and games for all ages.
- ★ Representatives from various parish ministries will be available to explain their ministries and opportunities to join.
- ★ Please RSVP today for this wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, have some fun, and learn more about what the various parish ministries have to offer. RSVP here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4CA4AC2BA4F94-50613839-olss>

### MEET OUR NEW STAFF

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Mr. Michael Wagaman

Mr. Wagaman has a BA in Modern Languages and Linguistics and a BS in Chemistry from UMBC. He has an MDiv from the Aquinas Institute of Theology, where he is also finishing an MA in Theology. He has studied 11 languages and is currently studying a 12th. He will be focusing on Greek and other languages that assist students in grades K-3 in making the sound-letter connection. He will continue with Spanish for grades 4-8 but will also add other languages for enrichment to show the connection between languages in history and their place in the Bible.

#### MUSIC: Ms. Alyssa Gross

Ms. Gross attended Albright College and is involved in numerous chamber and concert choirs in the area, including St. Mary's Musica and Hope & Harmony Choir. She is also a cantor at OLSS Masses and has worked with children's music productions. She is looking forward to working with our students this year.

#### LUNCH COORDINATOR: Ms. Sereneti Pierce

Sereneti has been a cook at restaurants in Solomons and Lusby. She loves cooking and is looking forward to creating healthy, delicious school lunches for our students.

# PHOTO DAY is easy as 1,2,3

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**2** Save the Date

## 9/9

**3** Smile!

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Student portraits will be taken on **Monday, Sep. 9** by Legacy Studios.

Students may wear dress clothes to school.



On Monday, at the ADW Teachers' Back to School Mass, Mrs. Kim Weber received a special award for having served for 25 years in the Archdiocese of Washington. OLSS is blessed to have such a caring, talented, and faithful teacher.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### AUGUST

- **Aug. 30:** 12:30pm Dismissal-Labor Day Weekend

#### SEPTEMBER

- **Sep. 2:** No School - Labor Day
- **Sep. 9:** Legacy Studios School Portraits
- **Sep. 10, 6:30pm:** Back to School Night
- **Sep. 19:** Spirit Night – Green Turtle, California
- **Sep. 27:** 12:30pm Dismissal

#### OCTOBER

- **Oct. 11:** 12:30pm Dismissal
- **Oct. 14:** No School - Columbus Day
- **Oct. 22:** Legacy Studio Portrait Retakes
- **Oct. 24 :** 12:30pm Dismissal
- **Oct. 24 :** End of 1st Quarter
- **Oct. 25:** No School - Collaboration Day
- **Oct. 25, 5:30pm:** Trunk or Treat