



September 11, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who came out last night for our Back To School Night. The teachers put so much work into creating their informational presentations for you, and your children were so happy to leave their little notes for you! I am including my speech from last night for those who were unable to make it due to conflicting appointments.

I am very honored and blessed to be the Principal here at Our Lady Star of the Sea School. I have been at OLSS for 19 years and this is my 6th year as Principal.

I am excited to begin this new academic year. I am hopeful that it will be a happy, healthy, and holy year full of fun and faith-filled learning. I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our returning families and a special greeting to all our new families.

I am thrilled to once again offer a nurturing, faith-filled environment that fosters academic excellence, personal and spiritual growth, and a strong sense of community. Together we believe that every student has unique God given talents and potential, and our dedicated team of educators is committed to helping each individual "Let their light shine" which is the overall theme for this year, for our school and the Archdiocese of Washington.

This year, we have exciting plans and initiatives in store to enhance the overall learning experience for our students. We will continue to focus on developing a well-rounded education, providing ample opportunities for students to excel not only academically but also in their human moral formation. We will offer extracurricular activities, social emotional awareness opportunities, and character-building endeavors.

As always, we encourage active involvement from parents and guardians in their child's education. We firmly believe that a strong partnership between the school and families greatly contributes to a student's success. Parents are the first educators of their children, and I thank you for trusting us to support and complement you in your most important endeavor. Open communication and regular engagement with teachers and school staff are vital to fostering a supportive and thriving learning environment. I ask that you follow the chain of communication where you reach out to your child's teachers first and if the matter is still unsettled or unresolved, then please reach out to me. Please know that my door is always open to you.

Safety remains our top priority, and we are committed to maintaining a secure and healthy campus for everyone. We will continue to adhere to all recommended health and safety guidelines to ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment for all.

Throughout the year, we will keep you informed about various school events, academic milestones, and important updates through our school website, newsletters, and parent-teacher conferences. I cannot stress enough the need to read the weekly newsletters from the office and from your child's teacher. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in every way possible.

Let us work together to make this academic year a memorable and successful one for our students. I am confident that, with the dedication of our exceptional staff, the support of our parents and guardians, and the hard work of our students, we will achieve great things.

Once again, welcome back to School. Let's go make Saints!

Grace and Peace,
Mrs. Jennifer Thompson
Principal



NEWS & REMINDERS

BAND DEMO/INFO: The ADW Band Program teacher will be holding a band demonstration for students in grades 4-8 this Friday. Students will be shown a variety of instruments and will bring home info about enrolling in the Band Program.

GRANDPARENTS DAY: We will be hosting a celebration of Grandparents on **Friday, October 4**. Please see the [flyer](#) with today's news for more info.

- We will have Mass at 9:00, followed by brunch and classroom visits.

- [RSVPS are required](#), and the maximum number of guests is 4 per family.

- We understand that many children do not have grandparents who will be able to attend. Other relatives or special friends are welcome to come in place of grandparents.

- This event is intended for grandparents/special friends only. Parents are welcome to attend the Mass, but only grandparents/ should attend the brunch and classroom visits, unless they need to assist grandparents.

D.A.R.E. PROGRAM: Our 5th and 6th grade students will participate in the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program from **Sep. 30-Oct. 11**.

BOOK FAIR: We will be holding an Ignatius Press Book Fair from **Oct. 4-9**; more info and volunteering opportunities will be out soon.

VIOLIN LESSONS: Ms. Elizabeth Feist is offering private violin lessons again this year; please [email her](#) if you are interested in more info or signing your child up for lessons.

FLU VACCINES: We will have an optional flu clinic at school for students on **Mon, Sep. 30**, with flu vaccines administered by nurses from Calvert County Health Dept. Required forms were sent home last week and should be sent to the School Office.

PICNIC: The [OLSS Parish/School Picnic](#) and Ministry Fair is **Sun, Oct. 6 from 11am-4pm**.

PORTRAITS: To order Legacy Studios portrait packages online, visit [Shop.LegacyStudios.com](#) and use code 4646F25.

SPIRIT NIGHT: HSA is hosting a Spirit Night at Green Turtle's California location on **Thu, Sep 19**. Guests must present the [invitation](#) on their phone or paper when they pay their bill, and Green Turtle will donate 20% of the total to OLSS.

BASKETBALL: All students in grades 5-8 (in good academic standing) are welcome to join the OLSS Basketball teams. Please submit the [registration form](#) and payment **by Sep. 25**.



Our PK students attended their first School Mass last Friday and sat with their 7th Grade Buddies. By attending Mass together, students learn the connection between their faith and education, and that our school environment is also a place for spiritual learning and growth.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER

- **Sep. 19:** [Spirit Night at Green Turtle](#)
- **Sep. 27:** 12:30pm Dismissal
- **Sep. 30:** Flu Clinic (Optional)

OCTOBER

- **Oct. 4:** Grandparents Day
- **Oct 4-9:** Ignatius Press Book Fair
- **Oct. 6, 11am-4pm:** [Parish & School Picnic](#)
- **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
- **Oct. 31:** Halloween Tag Day