



August 14, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you happy, healthy, and holy and that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer with your families. As we prepare to welcome our students back for the new school year, I wanted to take a moment to share some important information and updates with you.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families joining our OLSS community this year. We are excited to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you and your children. For our returning families, welcome back! We are eager to continue our partnership with you in fostering a supportive, enriching, faith-filled educational environment for your children.

The first day of school is just around the corner, and we have been working diligently to ensure that everything is in place for a smooth start. Our teachers have been preparing their classrooms, developing engaging lesson plans, and participating in professional development to enhance their skills. Our facilities staff has also been hard at work, ensuring that our school is clean, safe, and ready for learning.

This year, we are excited to continue to enhance the learning experience for our students which will provide hands-on, inquiry-based learning opportunities in many critical areas. We will inspire our students to explore and develop their interests which will prepare them for future success.

We are also thrilled to expand our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum, which will focus on developing students' skills in areas such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship building, and responsible decision-making. We believe that these skills are essential for our students' overall well-being and success, both in school and in life.

In addition, we will continue to prioritize academic excellence, strong character building and nurturing an active prayer life in our students. Our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to providing a high-quality education that meets the needs of all learners. We will also continue to offer a variety of extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and clubs, to ensure that our students have opportunities to explore their interests and talents outside of the classroom.

We understand that the start of a new school year can bring about a range of emotions for both students and parents. Please know that we are here to support you and your children every step of the way. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or myself. We value open communication and believe that working together as a family is essential for our students' success.

As we embark on this new school year, I encourage you to get involved in our school community. Whether through volunteering, attending school events, or participating in our Home and School Association (HSA), your involvement makes a significant difference in the lives of our students and strengthens our school community.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and partnership. I am confident that this school year will be one of growth, learning, and achievement for all of our students. Together, we can create a positive, nurturing, faith-filled environment where every student can thrive. Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. I look forward to seeing you and your children on the first day of school and throughout the year.

Grace and Peace,

*Mrs. Jennifer Thompson*

Principal

[principal@olsss.org](mailto:principal@olsss.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **TUESDAY, AUG. 20, 9am-12pm: OPEN DAY FOR NEW FAMILIES OF 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ONLY**

- New students and parents may visit their classrooms, meet their teachers, and drop off school supplies.
- Please limit classroom visits to 15 minutes.

### **TUESDAY, AUG. 20: 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL FOR PRE-K STUDENTS ONLY**

- Pre-K students should arrive at their building (playground gate) between 7:45-8:00am.
- Dismissal for half-day students is at 11:15am and full day students at 12:15pm.
- No hot lunch will be served; full day PK students should bring lunch.

### **WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21: 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN – 8<sup>th</sup> GRADES**

- Please join us for donuts in the Providence Room from 7:15-8:00am to kick off our new school year! Children will report to their classrooms at 8:00am, so please arrive early.
- Park in spots away from the car line or outside the parking lot if you will be coming into school.
- Students should bring a refillable water bottle and a healthy snack for morning snack break. We will have snacks available for purchase with a [pre-purchased snack card](#), or for 50 cents/each.
- Students will have lunch at school and should **bring lunch**; no hot lunch will be served this day.
- **Dismissal will be at 12:15pm for full-day PK and 12:30pm for K – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.**
- Students entering grades 1-8 should bring their completed summer work packs to school.
- Students entering grades 4-8 should bring their completed summer reading assignments.
- Before Care is available for students who have been enrolled in the program.
- After Care is available for students in K-8<sup>th</sup> who have been enrolled in the program. PK students are not eligible to attend Aftercare on 12:30pm dismissal days due to MSDE regulations.

## NEWS & REMINDERS:

**ROOM PARENTS:** Our Home & School Association is looking for individuals who are interested in becoming room parents. We need one room parent for each grade (PK-8). Please review the Room Parent Guidelines with today's news. A room parent interest meeting will be held the evening of **Wed, Aug. 28** (time TBA). Attendance is mandatory (unless coordinated separately) in order to be selected to be a room parent. If you are interested, please email [olsssroomparentcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:olsssroomparentcoordinator@gmail.com) by Aug. 27.

**UNIFORMS:** We appreciate donations of gently worn school uniforms items for our Uniform Exchange. Donations can be sent into school with your child.

**MORNING DROP-OFF:** Students may be dropped off in the morning car line between 7:30-7:55am. **Children may not be dropped off or get out of cars before 7:30am.** All students are expected to be in their homeroom **by 7:55am.** Students arriving after 7:55am must be walked to school doors by a parent/guardian to be admitted.

**BEFORE CARE:** We will be offering Before Care from 6:30am-7:30am starting on **Wed, Aug. 21.** To be cost-effective for our school, families must commit to using the program. **Parents must submit the [required forms](#) prior to participation.** Please email the School Office at [olsss.school@comcast.net](mailto:olsss.school@comcast.net) with any questions.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Please send supplies with your child(ren) on the first day of school. If you are a new family, you may bring your child's supplies to school on Open Day.

**MEDICATIONS:** If your child needs to take over-the-counter or prescription medication during school hours (including cough drops and lip balm, as per MSDE regulations), medications and [required authorization forms](#) must be brought by a parent/guardian to be checked in with our School Nurse, Mrs. Brandi Hutchins. Please email her with any questions at [schoolnurse@olsss.org](mailto:schoolnurse@olsss.org).

**YEARBOOKS:** If you paid for your 2023-24 school yearbook but have not picked it up yet, we will send it home with your child during the first week of school. If you would like to purchase one, please stop by the school office; the cost is \$35 payable by cash, check, or you may pay through the [online school store](#).