



Our Lady Star of the Sea School
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Pastor: Father Robert Kilner
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

Dear OLSS Families,

We are happy to announce the introduction of Mrs. Annie Gast, our new school counselor. School Counseling is fairly new to our school, as we began our school counseling program in March of 2022. As you may know, most schools in the area have a school counselor on staff to help students remove barriers that may impede their academic achievement. Students at OLSS will now have access to meet with Ms. Gast as needs arise to support them socially, emotionally, and academically throughout the school year to assist them in reaching their full potential.

School counselors are trained to support students when facing challenges that can prevent them from fully thriving within the school setting. Ms. Gast will be here once a week on Wednesdays beginning 9/14, to address any needs or concerns students may have that occur during the week. She can provide assistance to children on a drop in basis if needs arise and students need to talk with her to help with conflict resolution, social-emotional concern, reassurance, etc. She will also be able to provide individual counseling, small-group counseling, guidance lessons, and a plethora of additional services to support students, parents, faculty, and staff.

For ongoing counseling needs students will be able to be referred by a teacher, administrator, parent/guardian, or students can refer themselves. If students are referred for an ongoing counseling need, a parent or guardian will need to sign "Consent for Ongoing Counseling Archdiocese of Washington" form for ongoing counseling to commence. A consent form will be sent to parents/guardian via email (or see hard copy attached) with reason for referral and request for consent. Consent can be rescinded at any time. Additional resources may also be provided to parents/guardians for additional assistance if needed. We are very excited to provide this additional support to our students so that we may take a holistic, faithfilled approach to their academic success and provide them every opportunity to grow and learn in a positive nurturing environment. Please reach out if you are interested in ongoing counseling for your student or have further questions.

Sincerely,

Brandi Hutchins, OLSS School Nurse