



Our Lady of Mercy School

New Parent Newsletter

2011-2012 School Year

A Publication of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School

Principal's Greeting

Welcome to the family of Our Lady of Mercy School! Our motto, **Prayer - Knowledge - Service**, is central to all of the activities provided for the students of Mercy. We strive toward the goal of strong foundations for the future. I look forward to the 2011-2012 school year and to knowing each of you.

Our Lady of Mercy Philosophy

We believe that Our Lady of Mercy School provides an environment where partnerships are formed among educators, students, and parents to identify each child's talents and needs so that the individual develops to the fullest potential in an atmosphere of Catholic faith and love.

We believe that spiritual foundations are of the utmost importance in the development of the child. In learning the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church the child develops a personal relationship with Jesus Christ which serves as a guide throughout life. Through prayer the child understands that with Him all things are possible.

We believe that academic foundations are established as the child is challenged beyond basic skills to realize his fullest potential. Becoming an active participant in the acquisition of knowledge fosters the natural curiosity of the child. While preparing for the challenge of further education, the learner develops the skills of search and discovery. These skills enable each child to become a lifelong learner.

We believe that social foundations are necessary for Catholic living in modern society. The child recognizes his place as a citizen of the world and seeks to imitate Christ in service to others. Service projects afford a student the opportunity to spread the Good News of God's Kingdom on Earth. Social justice begins with the individual and affects society as well as the global community.

These foundations are integral parts of Our Lady of Mercy School. They support our beliefs: all parents are the primary educators of their child, every teacher is a vital part of the education process, and each child is given the tools to meet the challenges of Catholic living in the 21st century.

Religious Education

Our Lady of Mercy provides Catholic foundations for a life of prayer, knowledge, and service. Through the combined efforts of the principal, the religious education coordinator, teachers and parents, the religious education and spirituality of the children at Our Lady of Mercy is nurtured and strengthened.

Our Lady of Mercy strives to create a caring community among staff, students, and families through offering opportunities for spiritual growth. Students begin each day with prayer and have daily religious instruction. *Moms in Touch*, a prayer group of Mercy parents, meets weekly to pray for concerns of the school, children, parish and teachers. Teachers attend faculty retreat days where prayer and faith is shared. Students and faculty are encouraged to uphold the Church's mission of social justice by reaching out to the local community through annual food and clothing drives.

Students attend Mass on holy days of obligation and two Fridays per month. Parents are invited to attend with the students. Students are given the opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Students attend Way of the Cross during Lent, as well as First Friday devotional services throughout the year. Another program offered is "Come, Lord Jesus!", a scripture sharing group for eighth grade students. Family Nights take place throughout the school year, and allow families an opportunity to pray together and play together. Our Lady of Mercy endeavors to instill a Catholic Christian lifestyle through example as well as teaching.

Parents . . .

Please make sure that all of the following fees are in the office by 5/15/11:

➡ Your 2011-2012 tuition payment

****Tuition amount includes book and class fees. All tuition and Capital improvement fee may be included in the First Bank and Trust Loan.***

➡ The \$200 Capital Improvement fee (per family)

All fees are due to the office by May 15, 2011. Thank you!



Parents General Information

1. Students are not allowed to have **any** type of medication in their possession at school. For daily prescriptions, a form must be filled out by the parent and signed by the physician before the medication can be administered.
2. All parents and visitors must sign in at the school office and receive a "Visitor Badge" if they are going to be on the school campus.
3. Requesting Homework - You may consult the Teacher Page of the School's website at www.olomschool.org, or e-mail your teacher to request homework. The work can be picked up at 3:30 in the "homework room" adjacent to the Main Office for grades 2-8, and at the ECC Office for PK - 1st grades.
4. Emergency Cards - At the beginning of the school year, each student is given an Office Information Card. Be sure that these cards are filled out legibly, correctly and completely. **They must be kept current throughout the school year.** These cards contain vital information that help us to take care of your children. Only persons listed on the card will be allowed to check the child out of school without written parental permission.
5. Refer to the student handbook for any questions about school rules and regulations. The directory contains the school families' addresses and phone numbers and other important school phone numbers and information.
6. If your child has any special medical or academic needs, which may or may not require minor school accommodations, please contact Carla at 926-4223 to set up an ISNC (Individual Student Needs Committee) conference. A copy of any evaluations administered to your child will be necessary for review during this conference.



Check us out . . .

The school's website is the most valuable tool in keeping up with things happening at the school and within the parish. The calendar is continually updated, and gives you the advantage of looking at the school year at a glance. The *Mercy Memos* are posted each Tuesday. This is an excellent source of information about the things happening at our school on a weekly basis. The *Mercy Momentum* is the school newsletter that is published three times a year, and mailed to our parents.

Keep us marked as one of your favorites, and utilize this valuable tool for keeping in touch.

www.olomschool.org

It is VERY important that students at ALL grade levels report to school on time. Attendance policies and consequences are listed in the Student Handbook. Promptness minimizes the number of unnecessary interruptions during morning instruction in the classrooms. Please allow yourselves time to arrive to school on time. Specific carpool policies are in place during drop off and pick up times. Adherence to these policies is EXPECTED for the safety of our students. Convenience should NEVER take priority over our primary goal, which remains SAFETY FOR EACH STUDENT ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE.

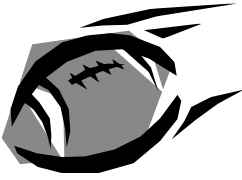
Extra Curricular Activities for Students

- ❖ **Altar Servers**
Catholic students in grades 5th - 8th will be contacted by the church about this program.
- ❖ **Athletics**
There are a variety of opportunities to participate in sport activities. Although changes in the activities offered may occur, Our Lady of Mercy currently has Tackle Football, Girl's and Boy's Basketball, Girl's Volleyball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Track, T-Ball, and Coach's Pitch. See the next page for details about the various activities.
- ❖ **Band and Choir**
Programs are available for students in grades 4th - 8th. Information will be available in August about these programs
- ❖ **Beta Club**
This is a service organization for 8th graders. Required: 3.5 GPA and an A in conduct.
- ❖ **Girl Scout / Boy Scout** groups are offered to students in grades K - 8th.
- ❖ **Student Council**
For students in 5th - 8th grade. Information will be given to the students at the beginning of each year in regard to the election/campaign guidelines and deadlines.
- ❖ **Quiz Bowl** is held throughout the year for grades 5th - 8th.

Address Changes

If you change your address during the summer, please be sure to notify our office at 924-1054. Our records will need to be up to date prior to the upcoming school year. Please keep us informed, so that we can keep you informed!!

Athletics



- ❖ **Tackle Football** - Grades 4 and up. Mid-August through November.
- ❖ **Girls' Basketball** - CSAL: 6th, 7th, 8th. CYO Teams: 5th through 8th. August through November. (CYO teams are always tentative.)
- ❖ **Boys' Basketball** - CSAL: 6th through 8th. CYO Teams: 5th through 8th. December to early March. (CYO teams are always tentative.)
- ❖ **Intramural Basketball** - Sponsored by OLOM Athletics for boys and girls grades K - 2. (Nov. - Dec.)
- ❖ **Girls' Volleyball** - CSAL: 6th through 8th. CYO Teams: 5th through 8th. February through April. (CYO teams are tentative.)
- ❖ **T-Ball** - Kindergarten and 1st grade boys and girls. Spring - information will be sent home.
- ❖ **Coach's Pitch** - 2nd through 3rd grade boys and girls. Spring - information will be sent home.
- ❖ **Cheerleaders** - 3rd and 4th grade: Blue Jay Pepper Squad (Late August through early November); 5th and 6th grade: Junior Squad; 7th and 8th grade: Senior Squad. (Throughout the school year).
- ❖ **Cross Country (Fall) / Track (Spring)** - 5th - 8th grade; Invitational meets hosted by various schools.



NOTE:

If you are interested in a sport that is not offered at Mercy, there are various organizations such as the BR Soccer Assoc., YMCA, BREC, American Legion and CYO that may be able to accommodate your particular age group or interests. The school handbook outlines academic requirements that must be adhered to in order for children to participate in the sports program. There are fees associated with the various sports activities.

Parents Clubs

1. **Home and School / Room Volunteers Association** - All OLOM parents are members of the Home and School Association. Some activities sponsored by Home and School include: 500 Club, Grandparents' Day, Uniform Exchange, and School Supplies Program, and Angel's Workshop. Room Volunteers, a committee of Home and School, plays a vital role in volunteer efforts for the school. Room volunteers help the teacher in coordinating parties, projects, and other class activities throughout the school year.
2. **Athletic Board** - Elected by parent population to guide the athletic activities at the school. Meetings are held monthly.
3. **Moms in Touch** is a caring group of Moms, Dads or Grandparents, that meet each Tuesday morning on

the school campus to pray for the school. Included in these prayers are the needs and the thanks of the teachers, students and families of our school.

4. **Men's Club** is an organization which is open to all men of Our Lady of Mercy Parish or School interested in sharing their time and talent with the school as well as fellowship with other members.

Parents may also volunteer to help in a number of areas. Cafeteria, Library, classroom, chaperone, and much more! Please be sure to fill out the Parent Volunteer Form, available at the beginning of the school year, and see the required Volunteer Certification information located under the PARENT tab of the website (www.olomschool.org.)



Keeping You Informed . . .

Available on Tuesday of each week, is a document entitled "**Mercy Memos**". The Memos are posted each Tuesday on the school's website, and informs parents of upcoming dates and events for the week. Please refer to this page weekly for important information which may not be included on the monthly calendar. By visiting the school's website at www.olomschool.org, you can keep up with the busy schedule of deadlines and events that take place here at Our Lady of Mercy.

Our Lady of Mercy has a certified faculty as well as . . .

. . . A Full time **Guidance Counselor** who coordinates the Individual Student Needs Committee to identify students with special needs. Our counselor also advises parents, individual students, small groups, and classrooms on academic or social concerns.

. . . A **Director of Religious Education** who guides Mercy's spiritual formation for staff and students through teaching, programs, and retreats.

. . . . A **Development Director** who communicates the message of Our Lady of Mercy in the Baton Rouge community, to parents, alumni, and parishioners.

. . . **Para-professionals** in the PreK through second grades.

. . . **Computer, Art, Spanish, Band, and Music** teachers, and a full time **Librarian**.

OLOM sponsors events such as:

- * A Taste of Mercy
 - * Sports Clinics
 - * FUN Walk
 - * Band/Choir Concert
 - * Open House
 - * Parish Fair
 - * Parish Auction
 - * Mardi Gras Parade
- Christmas and Spring*

PROGRAMS


- ✓ Developmentally Appropriate Early Childhood Program.
- ✓ Thematic Units integrate curriculum areas.
- ✓ Hands on Science lab for grades 7 and 8.
- ✓ Art instruction at grade levels K-8.
- ✓ Spanish taught in grade levels K-8.
- ✓ Choral Music.
- ✓ Band option in 4th through 8th grades.
- ✓ Religion classes taught daily at all grade levels.



Uniform Highlights

1. Uniforms may be purchased from our three authorized uniform dealers:
Young Fashions on Perkins Road, *School Time* on Jefferson Highway and *Inka's S'cool Wear* on Drusilla.
2. **Used uniforms** in good condition may be purchased from the Home and School Recycled Uniform Sale. This event is held twice a year (Summer, Winter) in the school's cafeteria. Check the calendar for dates.
3. Every Friday the **Dress uniform** must be worn for boys and girls. The dress uniform description is included in the School Handbook.
4. **OLOM Sweatshirts:** The official OLOM sweatshirt is the only sweatshirt that is permissible with uniform. Sweatshirts are available by order, once a year at the beginning of the school year. Order forms are distributed during the first week of school, and are also available on the website.
5. Refer to the **Student Handbook** for additional information.

Extended Day

 Open 7:00 AM to 7:55 AM and 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM each day, the Extended Day Program provides professional care, supervision and recreation. It serves working families who desire both parochial school education and supplementary day care in a Christian environment for children enrolled at Our Lady of Mercy School in grades Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Extended Day Program is staffed by an experienced, dedicated director and a number of devoted and committed leaders. These people, employed on a full time or part time basis, work together to help maintain an atmosphere wherein respect and understanding for others is realized. **Your child must be registered in the program 24 hours prior to attendance**, and if student has been registered, the service is also available on a drop-in basis.