



OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2024 Annual Report



Accountable • Respectful • Merciful • Spiritual

OLMCSCHOOL.INFO



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MISSION STATEMENT

The role of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School is to provide a Catholic Christian environment that nurtures and develops the soul, mind, and body of each child. Within this environment, religious traditions are celebrated, intellectual skills and critical thinking are developed, and students are prepared to live in and become vital contributors to a changing society.

PHILOSOPHY

OLMC recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. Parents develop their children's attitudes, values, and moral integrity.

The role of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School is to provide a Catholic Christian environment that nurtures and develops the soul, mind, and body of each child. Within this environment, religious traditions are celebrated, intellectual skills and critical thinking are developed, and students are prepared to live in and become vital contributors to a changing society. OLMC recognizes and appreciates each individual's significance as a member of a family, parish, and community. With love, respect, and support, every child learns and grows.



A Year's Overview by Father Robert Aliunzi, OLMC Pastor

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I feel so blessed to address this note to you as the pastor of our wonderful parish and school. As a parish, we are so blessed to have a very vibrant Catholic School! Being one of the largest ministries of our parish, we take great care and pride in ensuring that our students get the best Catholic education. Led by a dedicated administrative team with Principal, Dr. Kelly Shewbridge and Tony Groseta, her Assistant Principal, OLMC is a place where students can thrive academically and grow in their love of our Lord.

I have been around many schools in my life, and I have never been anywhere like Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Our students are respectful, disciplined and faithful, led by dedicated teachers and staff. I am frequently amazed by the level of commitment and love our staff has for the school. Each class I see or performance I attend is evidence of this. It is truly incredible what they are able to do, even at such young ages! I am so proud when others from around the Diocese tell me how great OLMC is. I am proud to say, OLMC is one of the best schools in the Diocese!

Word of OLMC's excellence has spread and our school has grown to be one of the largest elementary schools in the Diocese of Phoenix, boasting a student population of 530 from preschool through 8th grade. This delights me a lot as a pastor, as it is my job to evangelize and bring more sheep into His flock and lead everyone into heaven. As OLMC has grown, I am so glad that we are able to help more students get to know, love, and serve Our Lord.

Parents, I thank you for sending your children here, and I assure you that you have made the right choice of schools. OLMC is a special place, and your children are in very good and capable hands. They are supported loved, and challenged in their time at OLMC.

I am especially blessed because I know whenever I need a spiritual boost, I can walk over to the school and see the smiling faces of the children and the great things they are doing, and I feel renewed. I truly love them. I love them. I love them so, so much.



-FATHER ROBERT ALIUNZI
OLMC PASTOR



A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Welcome to the First Annual, State of the School Report! The goal is to keep parents informed of the happenings and changes at the school.

The theme of this school year is “Love one another as I have loved you.” We are all made in the image and likeness of God. He is visible in the beautiful diversity in our students. They have different strengths and experiences and challenges. Some of these challenges may sometimes make it difficult for some to learn. Or to feel Christ’s love. Or to love others. “Love one another” seems simple, but it asks us to love everyone. Always.

Christ gives this New Commandment in the Gospel of John. In the Great Commissioning in the Gospel of Matthew, Christ asks us to teach his commandment to everyone. In all three Synoptic Gospels he commands us to let the children come to Him.

At OLMC, this is our mission. It is different from the mission of public or charter schools that aim to educate and create good citizens. We must reach out to “all the world” and bring the children

to Him so they can know His love and love others. While we cannot reach everyone, we have worked really hard to be able to serve more students than traditional Catholic schools by accepting students from many different walks of life.

When students come to OLMC they are safe, they receive kind words, smiles, hugs, or high fives from our faculty and staff. They are also challenged academically. They receive small group, differentiated instruction and hands-on learning. They are enriched spiritually and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They are loved and accepted and see God’s love all around them. They learn to love one another through the examples set before them. This is what makes us so special.

It is a beautiful gift to work at OLMC, with such an amazing staff on such an important mission. I am incredibly proud of how our school has grown in this mission. In the past decade, the school has grown steadily each year—challenging and loving and bringing more students to Christ than ever before. With this growth comes the challenge of maintaining our high standards of excellence. This report highlights the school’s updates to continue pushing our students on their academic and faith journeys.



Dr. Kelly Shewbridge

-Dr. Kelly Shewbridge
OLMC Principal

SCHOOL STAFF

Pastor Father Robert Aliunzi	Kindergarten Mrs. Vullo & Miss Makar	Eighth Grade Mr. Abbott & Mrs. Gjerstad	Athletic Director Coach Deremiah
Principal Dr. Kelly Shewbridge	First Grade Mrs. Lee & Mrs. Swan	Special Education Coordinator/Speech & Language Pathologists Mrs. Washkowiak	Fine Arts Mrs. Lowe
Assistant Principal Tony Groseta	Second Grade Mrs. Arnold & Mrs. Lamb	Counselor/Behavioral Intervention Mrs. Arnold	Spanish Teacher Señora Perusquia
Office Manager Enedina White	Third Grade Mrs. Abbott & Mrs. Hartley	Math Specialists Mrs. Stanley & Miss Anderson	STEM Teacher Mrs. Beers
Development Director Ashley Hall	Fourth Grade Miss Bermel & Mrs. Mills	Reading Specialists Mrs. Valenzuela & Mrs. Goins	Librarian Mrs. Cameron
Nurse Emily Sharlin	Fifth Grade Mr. Pezzuto & Mrs. Pichardo	Instructional Aides Mrs. Cornforth, Mrs. Gass, Mrs. Inzunza, Mrs. Doulos, Mrs. Record, Miss O'Connor, Mrs. Grubbs, Mrs. Bredenberg	Kids Club Coordinator Mrs. Perez
Office Secretary Alyssa Velasquez	Sixth Grade Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Hyde		Tuition & Scholarships Ms. Alaska Mrs. Runey
Spirituality Teacher Father Gabriel Terrill	Seventh Grade Mr. Sanders & Mrs. Knox		Maintenance Jim Blasko Daniel Aguilar

[*Click here for full list of contact information](#)



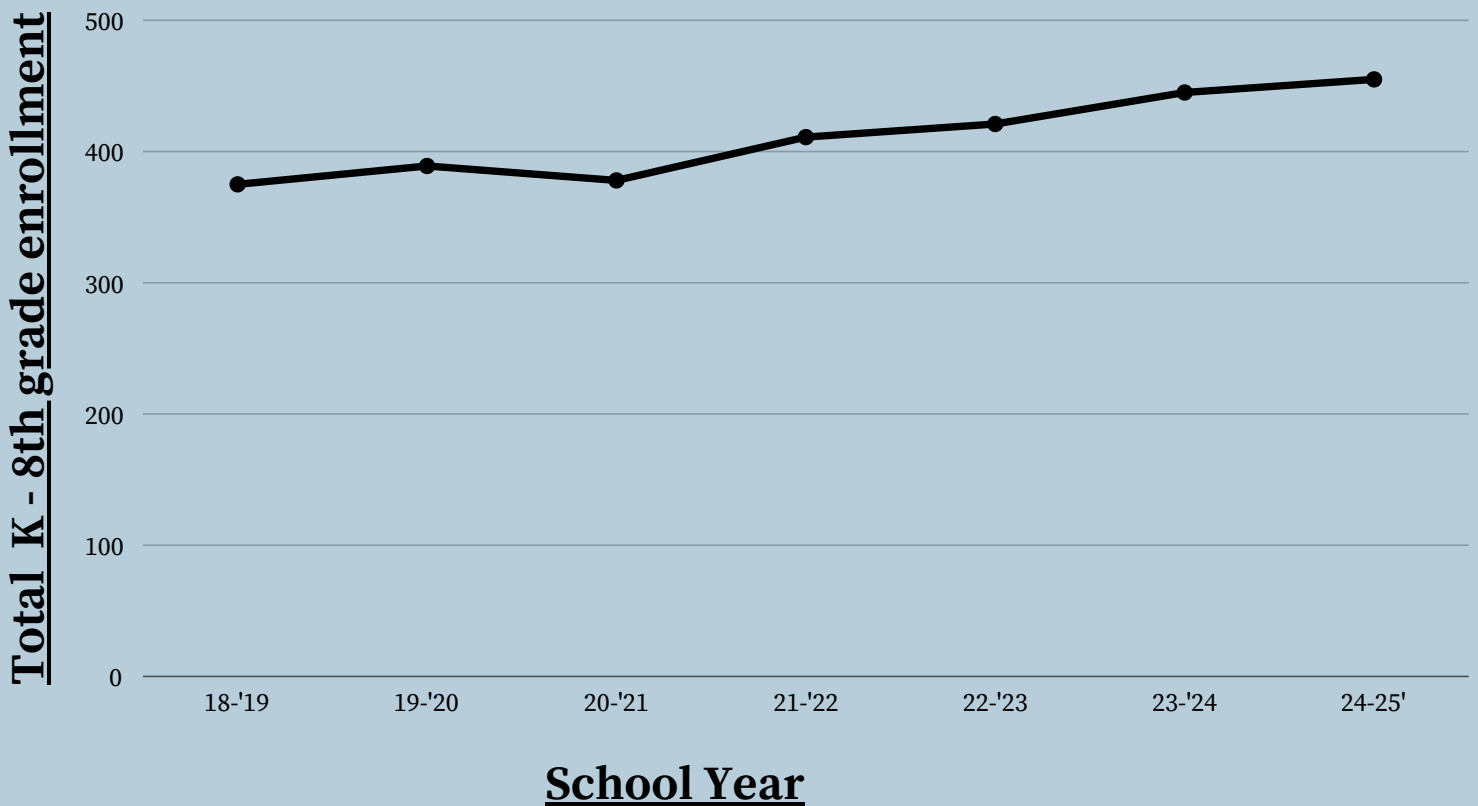
A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

ENROLLMENT (K-8)

In the past decade, enrollment has steadily increased from 340 to 457 students. To support the additional students, faculty increased from 31 to 49.

Additions to OLMC Staff:

- Three Instructional Aides in Kindergarten classrooms
- Two Math Specialists
- Three Reading Specialists
- Speech and Language Pathologist/SPED Coordinator
- Counselor/Behavioral Interventionist
- Seven additional Instructional Aides to support students and teachers
- Office Manager in the front office



A Year's Overview by Mrs. Eryn Washkowiak, Special Education Coordinator

RESOURCE TEAM

At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, we are fortunate to be able to offer speech/language therapy, math and reading intervention, and/or behavioral support to students who qualify. Students who require math intervention, reading fluency intervention, or reading comprehension support are identified and monitored through benchmark testing that is completed in the beginning, middle, and end of each school year. The level of intervention is determined based on each individual student's need. Students are supported by push into the classroom and/or pull-out services by members of our intervention team in an individual or small group setting.

Over the years, our team has grown quite a bit! Eight years ago, we were only able to offer reading fluency intervention to our students. Since then we have slowly been able to add more and more support for our students! Currently, our Student Support Team consists of a Student Support Coordinator, two Math Specialists, a Reading Specialist for reading fluency, a Reading Specialist that focuses on reading comprehension, a Behavioral Specialist/Counselor, a Speech/Language Pathologist, and an SLP assistant. We are also able to offer additional reading fluency practice, targeted phonics sessions, and math facts practice with our intervention aides to the students who have been identified as benefitting from the additional practice. These aides also assist teachers within the classroom, helping with leveled reading groups and math groups, so that instruction can be presented at the students' academic level. It has been so fun to watch the students grow over the years as our team and then level of support that we are able to offer has grown!



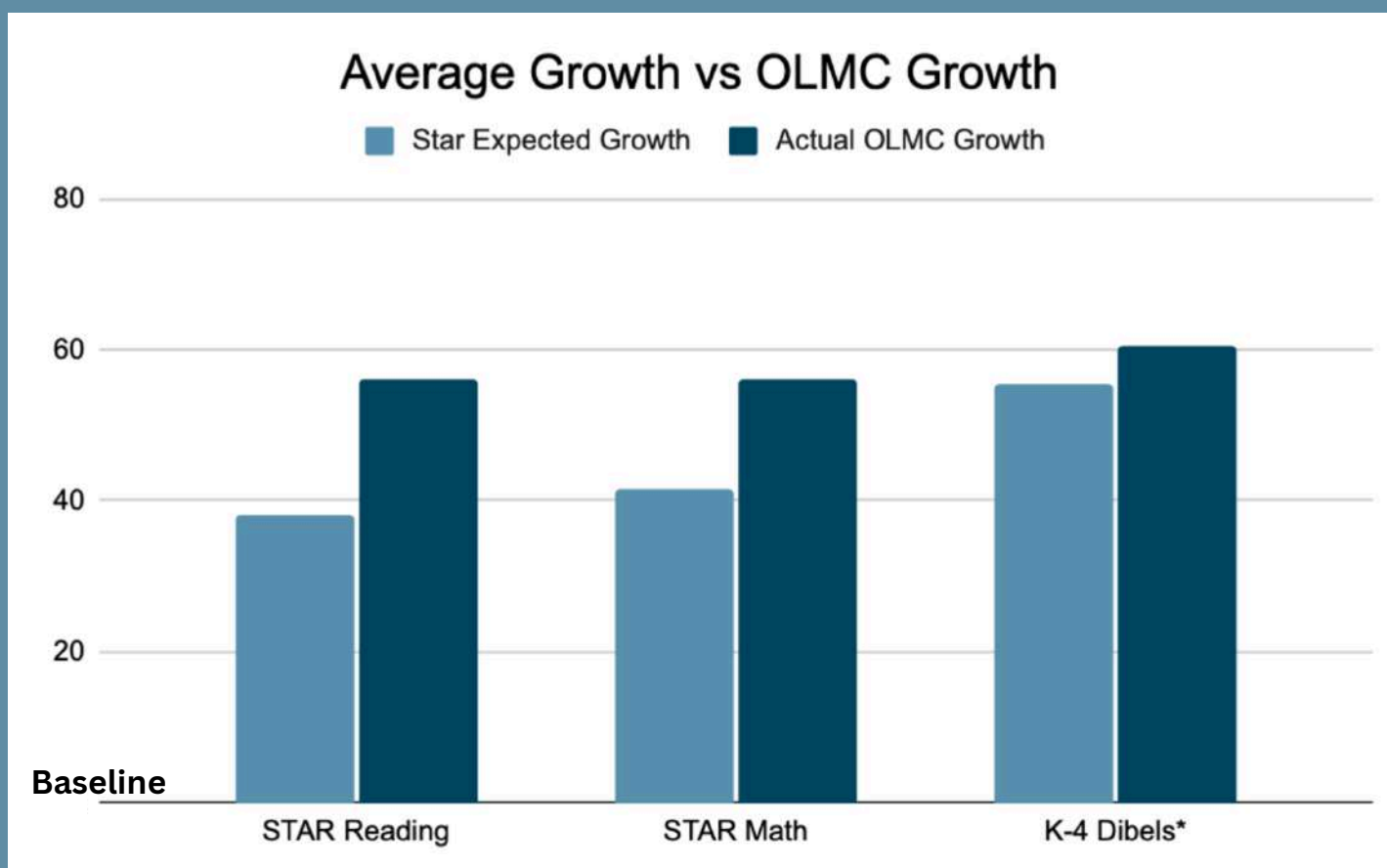
A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

ACADEMIC DATA & GROWTH

OLMC's goal is to challenge all students academically, while providing the support they need to succeed. Most students receive the proper level of support from their teachers, but some need additional small group or individual interventions. Others need additional challenges through extra enrichment sessions. It is in pushing through academic challenges that students achieve the most growth.

In addition to grades, OLMC uses a variety of assessments to monitor student achievement and growth. The Star Reading and Star Math Assessments are given three times each year: once in August for baseline scores, once in December, and again in May. The Star Assessment program uses the baseline scores to estimate how much progress the students should achieve during the year. With hard work of the students, their teachers, and all of the support team put in place at our school, OLMC students consistently perform better than their expected scores.

The Dibels Reading assessment is similarly used for Kindergarteners-4th graders to assess their reading progress. It too provides expected progress for the students. OLMC again outperforms those expectations.



A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel follows the Diocese of Phoenix Curriculum Standards. All the specific standards taught per grade level can be accessed at the [Diocese of Phoenix's Curriculum Standards Website](#).

Teachers use a variety of resources to teach these standards, including text books, online subscriptions, novels, and teacher created activities and projects. Below are some of the resources that the teachers use:

Math

MyMath and Glencoe Math curriculum is built around the Standards for Mathematical Practices. It inspires the students to embrace math through real world applications. The MyMath Curriculum is comprehensive in its content and includes several key features designed to enhance mathematics learning including interactive learning and real-world applications.

5-8th graders also work within the Building Thinking Classrooms framework that focuses on students problem solving in groups within a supportive classroom environment.

Language Arts

Superkids:

The Superkids Reading Program is designed to enhance early literacy skills for young children, typically in kindergarten and first grade. It emphasizes phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency through a systematic, engaging curriculum. SuperKids reinforces Catholic Identity through their Connections which include virtues, values, and other Catholic teachings. Key features of the program include: structured lessons, interactive materials and characters that the students follow from kinder to 1st grade.

Journeys:

The Journeys reading program focuses on literacy skills for elementary students. It is an anthology of various genres and encompasses phonics instruction, vocabulary development and writing opportunities, along with comprehension strategies.

A wide variety of novel studies are completed throughout the grades. In grades 5-8, students begin to analyze themes and are taught to write analytical essays about novels and other topics. Writing is developed across the curriculum.



A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

Science

For Science standards, teachers use online textbooks, current articles, Mystery Science, and experiments to help students develop interest, wonder, and curiosity about the study of the universe while recognizing the objective nature of science as created by God. They learn to understand the scientific method along with scientific processes which include organizing data. Students explore how science integrates mathematics, reading, oral and written communication, which are influenced by religious beliefs.

Science teachers place a strong focus on investigation and experiments to develop this sense of wonder.

Social Studies

Teachers incorporate a variety of materials throughout kindergarten to eighth grade. The social studies curriculum standards focus on Catholic Identity, History, Geography, Government, and Economics. These standards aim to nurture well-developed values based on Catholic teachings and democratic principles. It develops an awareness of how people throughout history have solved social, economic, and global problems. It fosters moral Catholic leaders who are well versed in contemporary issues and are critical thinkers who make unbiased decisions based on facts.





2024-8TH GRADE GRADUATING STATISTICS

100% of OLMC students who apply to one of the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic High Schools were accepted this year.

Seton Catholic Preparatory-23 students
Brophy College Preparatory-4 students
Xavier College Preparatory-1 student
St. Mary's Catholic Preparatory-5 students
Public High School-7 students

*A Year's Overview***STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS**

An Our Lady of Mount Carmel student is wrapped in the A.R.M.S. of the Church by being:

Accountable

- Takes responsibility for words and actions and the impact they have on self and others
- Respects rules and demonstrates qualities of a faith-filled citizen

Respectful

- Displays an understanding of social, cultural and economic differences
- Demonstrates care and compassion for others and self

Merciful

- Shows compassion for and is generous to those in need
- Relates to peers and demonstrates forgiveness and support when necessary

Spiritual

- Develops morality based on Catholic values
- Demonstrates knowledge of Catholic teachings and traditions through worship and stewardship.



FAITH FORMATION

99.97% of our students are Catholic

58% are OLMC Parishioners, the remaining students attend 27 other parishes in the Diocese of Phoenix

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Weekly during Lent



MARIAN CELEBRATIONS

Marian feast days celebrated with Mass and processions. 5th grade leads rosary daily in May dedicated to Mary.



ADVENT PRAYERS

7th grade leads us in Advent prayers and light the Advent wreath daily.



SACRAMENTS

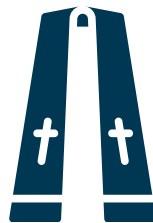
2024

60 Students received Reconciliation
65 Students received Communion
65 Studnets received Confirmation



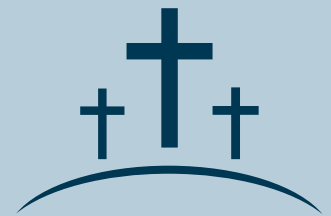
ALL SCHOOL MASS

Weekly and Holy Days of Obligation



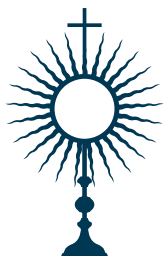
TREK THROUGH SALVATION

Annually during Holy Wekk



EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Annually during Catholic Schools Week



ROSARY

Weekly



ADORATION

Weekly



A Year's Overview by Father Gabriel Terrill, Associate Pastor

FAITH FORMATION

I am blessed and edified to participate in the spiritual development of our students at Mount Carmel. It is refreshing to see how authentically they participate in the faith from the all school Masses when we gather every week as a community to celebrate the Lord's presence in the Eucharist to the Trek through Salvation wherein the students reenact the major events of our salvation history. It is also heartwarming to see the children spend time in the church in adoration with Jesus on Wednesdays. I am always impressed to see how well behaved and attentive they are during adoration. Watching them grow in their faith as they practice their faith is a unique experience that also encourages me in my faith and my ministry. I am also fortunate to spend time with the 7th and 8th graders once a week in the classroom teaching Theology of the Body, some scriptural studies, and whatever they are curious about regarding the faith. For me, beyond the teaching, the most valuable part of spending time with the students is getting to know them and hopefully letting them get to know me as a priest. I know from my own discernment and faith journey that the many priests I encountered helped inspire me in my faith and discernment. I am humbled by my experiences at the school

and hope to assist the students in their journey of faith as they edify me in my ministry. My hope is that we continue to grow in our faith as a community through the unique opportunities of prayer offered at our school, and that we persevere in imitating Christ as we support each other with charity.

-Father Gabriel Terrill



A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

2017:

- New tables for McCready Hall

2018:

- Two new offices built in the library for Math and Reading Specialists
- New shade sails outside of "A" side classes
- New Kindergarten playground

2019:

*\$3 million dollar renovation with the support of Shea Family Charities

- Classroom Upgrades
- New flooring
- New ceilings and lights
- New ceiling fans
- New cabinets
- New countertops
- New bookcases
- Walls raised on "A" side classrooms
- Two new offices built at the end of Junior High hallway for additional staff
- Additional storage cabinets built
- Technology upgrades
- New CAT6 internet wiring
- New projectors and interactive whiteboards
- New staff computers
- New student Chromebooks
- New intercom system
- Security entry gate
- Upgraded electronic locks
- Additional fencing
- Security cameras
- Automatic locking push bar doors
- Additional bathrooms near the basketball courts

2020:

- New handwashing stations
- Water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains

2021:

- New playground and swings built on the field for 1st-8th graders
- Misters built around playground structure

2022:

- Upgraded phone system
- Shade covering built over the swings
- Additional classroom Chromebooks purchased
- New chairs for McCready Hall
- Misters added to Kindergarten playground and dismissal area
- New shade trees planted in the field

2023:

- Security gate and doorbell added to McCready Hall
- New student desks and chairs
- New teacher desks
- New portable baseball mound
- Resurfaced basketball courts and new basketball hoops

2024:

- Complete remodel of the breezeway bathrooms
- Sandbox and cover built on the Kindergarten playground
- New turf on the Kindergarten playground
- Storage cabinets added to the Junior High Hallway
- Two additional offices created in the Library for Math and Reading Specialists
- Additional large bookcase added to the Library for more books!
- Additional bleachers for the playground
- New baseball and softball benches
- New baseball and softball helmet and ball racks for storage

A Year's Overview by Mr. Tony Groseta

2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Library & Student Resource Center



Breezeway Bathrooms



Outdoor Spaces



This year was a big one for improvements on campus!

Two new offices were added to the library for our Reading and Math Specialist to work with individuals and small groups. Now OLMC's Speech Pathologist, Math Specialists, and Reading Specialists have neighboring offices. These new cozy learning centers help ensure that our amazing staff has the appropriate space and resources to help the students.

Both the boys and girls breezeway bathrooms were also renovated this summer using funds from the OLMC Auction. They now have all new tile, fixtures, stalls, and mirrors. An exciting addition for our maintenance and cleaning crew is the addition of storage cabinets!

Funds from the Home & School Fun Run were used to purchase new bleachers and benches that you'll see around the courts and fields. These are especially helpful for the fans of our record number of OLMC athletes competing after school.

The Dads' Club volunteered to help build a new extra-large sandbox for the Kindergartners and install field turf alongside it. The result of their hard work is beautiful and has been a favorite location for the Kindergartners to play in their playground!



-Mr. Tony Groseta

A Year's Overview by Dr. Kelly Shewbridge, OLMC Principal

FUNDRAISING

The school administration and Finance Council work diligently to be good stewards of the funds the school receives. It is expensive to educate a student and the school works hard to keep tuition increases to a minimum. The budget that is created annually has income specifically identified for fundraising to try to keep the tuition affordable for families. The Universal Empowerment Scholarship has been a huge blessing to all families but the tuition does not cover the actual cost of educating a student at OLMC. This is why supporting the school through the Annual Night to Soar Auction and Gala is so incredibly important. The school is funded through tuition. This is what is used to pay for everything that happens at OLMC from books and supplies, to cleaning and air conditioning, to teacher salaries- all of this comes strictly from tuition. In the past, the Parish has been able to subsidize the school but in the past several years the school has had to stand on its own. Since we have all been blessed with scholarship money to cover the tuition costs, it is imperative to keep the costs down, that families give to and support this event so that the operating budget can be covered and additional things can be done around the school to enhance the campus for our students.

We have been blessed over the last five years to receive some very large grants. We had the Shea grant in 2019 which was used to update all of the classrooms, enhance security and technology and to build much needed bathrooms on the field. This grant was nearly \$3 million dollars. Additionally, a grant from Catholic Community Foundation, Shea, and a parishioner was used to fund the large playground. We also received funding during the pandemic to combat in learning loss which allowed us to purchase materials for the health and wellness of the students, and supplies to keep the campus clean. We were also able to use some of this funding to hire additional staff to address learning loss that took place while the children were at home during the shut down.

I cannot thank the parents enough for their generous financial support with our Night to Soar Auction, food fundraisers, Casino Night, and Fun Run and for the countless hours of volunteer time! The many ways that parents give to the school community does not go unnoticed!

-Dr. Shewbridge

Night to Soar Income:

The school's main fundraiser

- 2019: \$35,000
- 2020: \$103,145
- 2021: \$146,497
- 2022: \$127,476
- 2023: \$115,653
- 2024: \$137,650

Grants:

- Virginia Piper Grant \$10,000
- AZ Sports & Tourism 2024: \$5,000
- Matthew Project 2024: \$2,250
- Matthew Project 2023: \$5,000
- Matthew Project 2022: \$4,400
- SRP 2023: \$2,500
- SRP 2024: \$2,500

Home & School:

- Fun Run: \$14,000

Dads' Club Fundraisers

- Casino Night: \$11,781
- Movie Nights: \$340
- Food Fundraisers 2023/2024 school year: \$2,319
- Father/Daughter Dance: \$4,114



A Year's Overview by Ashley Hall, OLMC Director of Development & Stewardship

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

Dear OLMC Community,

I am pleased to present the first OLMC Annual Report. This report highlights the important work of our school community of 527 students (325 families), whose good works span over ministries, committees, programs, and services that have impacted the lives of our children and community.

I truly believe OLMC is special, our community is unmatched and home to many. As a lifelong parishioner and alumni of OLMC school, I can tell you without a shadow of doubt that my formative years spent at OLMC impacted who I am today and the work I do now. We are forming youth that will be the future of our church and school. Our job is hard but OLMC is up to the challenge! One of my favorite homilies asks the question "What's your why?" Why do we do what we do, what drives us? Personally my "why" is this school, this community, the church and its people. When the work is hard, tireless or seems monumental, I think of all those before me who gave their all for OLMC to make it what it is today. We give our Time, Talent and Treasure and are rewarded tenfold by this beautiful community.

Thank you for continuing to serve our school community by your tireless support, your presence, and prayers. I am keenly aware of the hard work and sacrifices made by the parents of OLMC. We ask a lot and you continue to GIVE A LOT. One constant in our community is that when there's a need, you show up and usually show up big! Thank you to all our past donors whether big or little, monetary, time, or prayers, we appreciate it all so very much. I am grateful for this community and the generous support you have given to our beautiful school. I look forward to the future and all we can accomplish together! Thank you for your support!

When asked my why?
I say, the STUDENTS are my why,
this school is my why,
HE IS MY WHY!
What is your why?

Blessings,
Ashley Hall
Director of Development & Stewardship



School testimonials from our families:

-We have been so blessed to have our children attend Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The curriculum is all faith based and the education is top notch. But what really sets OLMC above the rest are the teachers and administrators. They are absolutely amazing. I can't say enough good things about the OLMC School community.

- We are so blessed to be part of the OLMC School Community. The education our children are receiving is giving them their foundation for success and helping them develop their character. I can't imagine our kids anywhere else.

-We love Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. I love the small campus and class sizes, the preschool-8 age range, and the Catholic identity that permeates every aspect of school life. The academics are strong and their education is well-rounded in the arts, STEM, and athletics, along with opportunities to serve others on and off campus. Best of all, OLMC is a community of caring friends and family where all of my children have thrived.

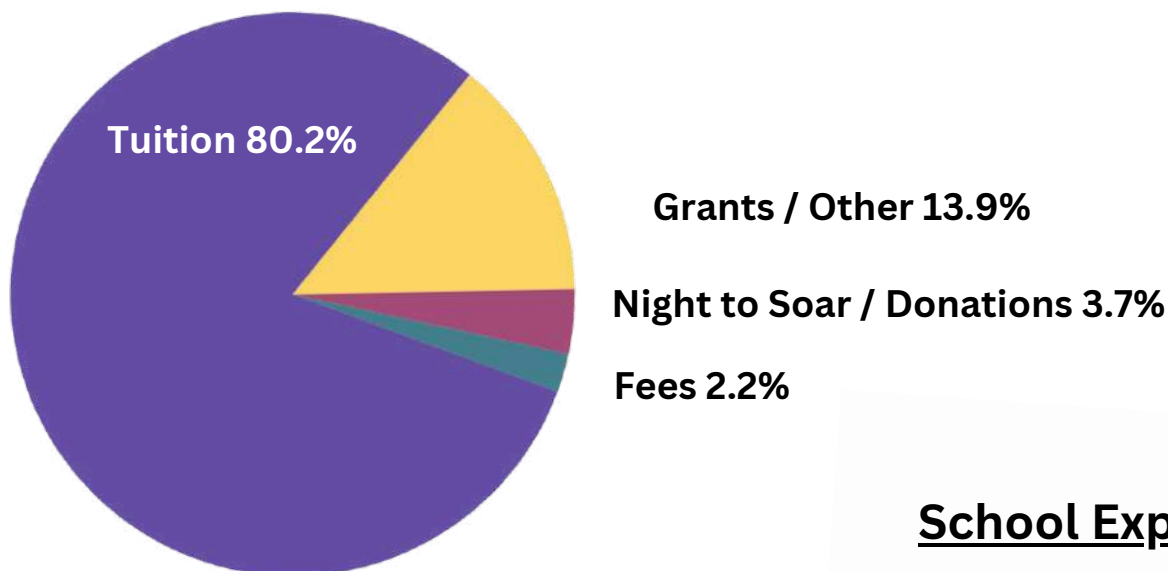
-Our school is excellent! The pastor, principal, teachers, and staff are doing an amazing job and the school is thriving because of Father Robert's and Dr. Shewbridge's hard work and dedication to our students. OLMC is a beautiful faith-filled community to raise your children.

A Year's Overview

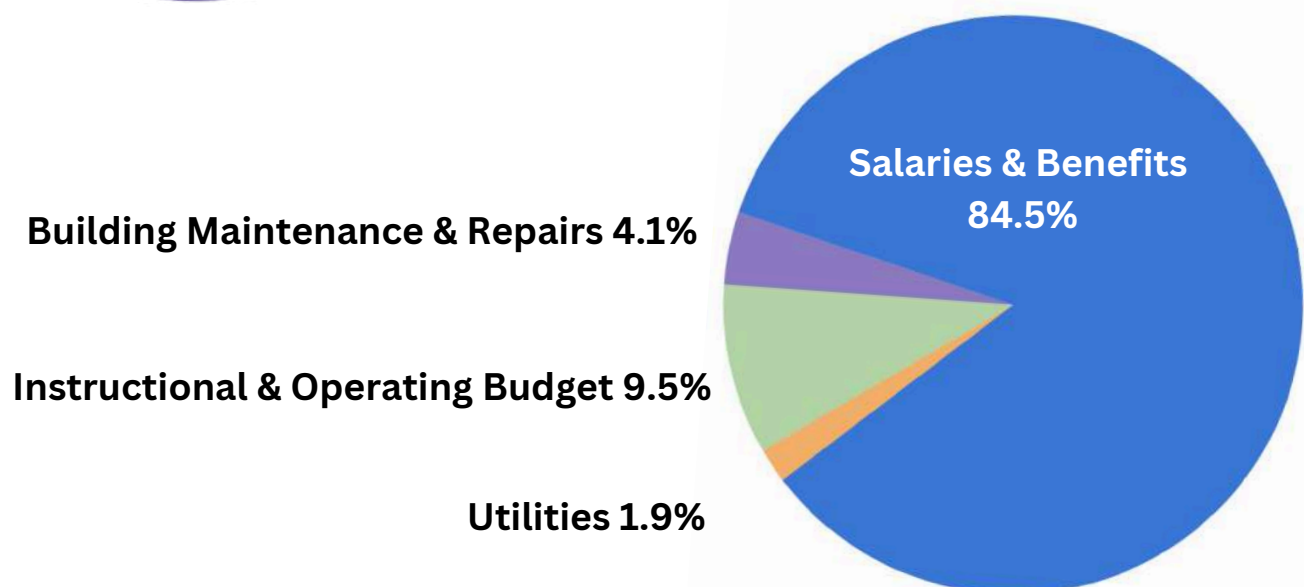
FINANCIAL UPDATE SCHOOL

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School is financially independent and does not rely on any parish subsidies. Typically, over 90% of the school's income comes from tuition through ESA and STOs. For the past several years, the school has also benefited from large federal grants (EANS I and II) that were designed to help private schools through the COVID era and recover from the subsequent learning loss, so this year's graph shows a larger than usual percentage of income from grants. Though the grants expired in September 2024, the school has strategically planned to continue funding the most helpful uses of these funds. OLMC prioritizes the people who work here and 85% of our expenses go to salaries and benefits.

School Income:



School Expenses:



SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

School safety and security is coordinated between school staff and retired police commander, Hugh White. Commander White's two children attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. Since the late 2000's, Commander White has continually revised and enhanced our security policies and procedures to conform with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) current standards and practices.

Commander White trains OLMC School staff annually at the start of school based on the current best practices model by DHS, and policy revisions are made, if needed, to the OLMC Critical Incident Policy. Dr. Shewbridge and Mr. Groseta meet with Commander White regularly about issues and concerns as they arise during the school year, and they conduct walkthroughs of the campus regularly. We are proud of the many safety and security enhancements OLMC has made over the years thanks to various grants and donations (e.g. Shea grant, etc.) to include:

- Buzzer gate with audio/video so that school office staff can see and hear who is requesting access to enter campus.
- The breezeway gate was moved forward to cover the northwest door of McCready Hall behind the secured inner perimeter.
- Added additional fencing on the north concrete wall to enhance the height and security of that perimeter wall.
- Installation of security cameras with monitoring ability at key locations throughout the campus.
- Locks on doors requiring badge readers for access to both school and preschool.
- Phone and Audio upgrades for interoperability between the preschool, school, and classrooms.
- Raised the exterior window height on the A-side classrooms that are visible from the exterior of the campus.
- Additional mesh on the gates surrounding the preschool and kindergarten play areas for added security measures.
- Southwest door of McCready Hall - gate installation in 2023.

In 2023, Commander White met with Fr. Robert, and developed a similar policy and procedure for the parish offices along with training office staff. Fr. Robert's vision of the parish office, church buildings, school, and preschool being all part of one campus enhances the overall safety and security of the school and preschool campuses with all staff trained and committed to the safety mission of OLMC.

A Year's Overview

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

OLMC school is a vibrant and active community with many clubs available to our students.

Catholic Youth Athletics- 5th-8th grade boys can play Flag Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track & Soccer. 5th-8th grade girls can play Volleyball, Softball, Basketball, Cross Country & Soccer.

Little Flowers & Little Women- K-3rd & 4th-5th grade girls learn the virtues through scripture, saints' biographies, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and fun crafts and projects.

Young Men for Christ- 1st-8th grade young men work to enhance and develop their relationship with Christ and incorporate God's spiritual works on Earth through Fellowship, Prayer, Reflection, and Adoration.

Choir- 2nd-8th graders students develop their singing abilities and sing at school and some Sunday Masses.

Chess Club- Kindergarten-8th graders learn and play chess! We partner with Chess Emporium to give students the opportunity to learn chess and improve their skills. Studies by major corporations and universities have shown that chess can help students increase their math and verbal skills, as well as their creative and critical thinking abilities. Interested students are invited to participate in community chess competitions.

Spanish Art Club- 3rd-5th grade students develop their art skills with a little Spanish sprinkled in with professional artist and OLMC Spanish teacher.

Craft Club- 5th-8th grade students create fun crafts including jewelry, canvas art, hand lettering, flower crafts, and sewing.

Catholic Academic Jr. High Decathlon- 6th-8th grade students compete against other Catholic schools' teams knowledge of Roman Catholic doctrine, English, Literature, Science, Mathematics, Current Events, Social Studies, and Fine Arts (Art and Music).

Math Club- 6th-8th grade students expand their math skills and compete in math competitions against other schools.

Battle of the Books- A reading competition where students work in teams to read books and answer comprehension questions.

Yearbook Club- 5th-8th grade students learn how to take pictures and put together the school's yearbook.

Guitar Club- 4th-8th grade students learn the basics of guitar. There is a beginner and intermediate class.

Running Club- 1st-8th grade students run once a week during their lunch recess and can run in various fun runs and races around the Valley.

Girl Scouts- Kindergarten-8th grade students participate in Brownies, and Girl Scout. These groups help to foster character building, citizenship training, and teamwork through safe and family-oriented programs.

Cub / Boy Scouts- Kindergarten-5th grade students join the OLMC Scout packs and foster character building, citizenship training, and teamwork through safe and family-oriented programs.

Student Leadership- 7th and 8th graders can apply to join the student leadership team which works to support the school in numerous roles. From mentoring those in the younger grades, leading various charitable drives throughout the school year, planning activities, and supporting students and teachers in the classroom, these young men and women look to develop school pride and promote community.

Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy- 7th and 8th graders can participate in this national leadership academy focused on developing leadership skills and impact through action.

Orchestra- OLMC partners with TOPNA to teach orchestra to 2nd-8th grade students. Students learn high-quality classical music with professional instructors.

A Year's Overview by Mrs. Katie McSheffrey- Little Flowers/Little Women & Mr. Hugh White- Young Men for Christ

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SPOTLIGHT

LITTLE FLOWERS / LITTLE WOMEN

Little Flowers was created for young girls with the purpose of increasing knowledge of the saints, growing in virtue and building friendships. During the program girls rotate between stations where they learn about various saints and virtues while also creating unique crafts and playing fun games. Little Flowers is for girls grades K-3.

Once girls enter into 4th and 5th grade they participate in Little Women. The program is similar to Little Flowers, where they learn about saints and virtues with the added element of deepening their faith through adoration and learning home economic skills. Many of our Little Women graduate and go on to become Junior High Volunteers for Little Flowers and Little Women. The "Little" franchise as we call it is a fantastic way for girls to enrich their lives in our school community.

-Katie McSheffrey



YOUNG MEN FOR CHRIST

Young Men for Christ's mission is to enhance and build the OLMC young men's relationship with God and to incorporate God's spiritual works on earth through Fellowship, Prayer, Reflection, and Adoration. We teach valuable skills to our young men that will serve them later in life. Young Men for Christ's ministry is guided under the direction of Mrs. Marissa Knox, 7th grade mathematics teacher, and her husband, Jason Knox with several parent volunteers, Young Men For Christ is modeled after Little Flowers and meets on the first Friday of the month. The Ministry is made up of dedicated volunteers who teach 2nd through 8th grade young men about their faith formation, and how to apply their faith to crafts and activities which cultivate their devotion to works through hope and charity.

-Mr. Hugh White



A Year's Overview

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Auction & Dinner



Fall Festival



Home & School Meetings



St. Nick Breakfast



Casino Night



Parish Festival



Trivia Night



Mother/Son Kickball



Father Daughter Dance



Dads' Club Meetings



Back to School BBQ



Cornhole Tournament

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are required to complete 6 hours of volunteering per school year.

HOME & SCHOOL

Acts as a liaison between our administration and families, Home & School enriches our school by encouraging family involvement and communication.

ST. THÉRÈSE

The St. Thérèse Group aims to work closely with parish leaders and school administration to identify opportunities to strengthen and promote our Catholic identity throughout the parish and school.

ROOM PARENTS

Room Parents help with activities and class parties and assist with communication between the Home & School board and our families.

DADS' CLUB

The mission of the OLMC Dads' Club is to build better relationships with our fellow OLMC families and to help improve OLMC for our children.

COACHING

OLMC offers after school athletics for 5th -8th grade students. The athletic teams are coached by parent volunteers and coordinated by our Athletic Director.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- Art Masterpiece
- Playground Monitors
- Events Committee
- Auction Committee
- Festival Committee
- School Advisory Board
- Library Assistance



A Year's Overview by Mr. Marc Stern-Dads' Club President

DADS' CLUB

Mission Statement and Purpose

The mission of the OLMC Dads' Club is to build better relationships with our fellow OLMC families and to help improve OLMC for our children.

One way the Dads' Club helps build relationships at OLMC is by putting on several fun community events each year. These events give our school families a place to interact with each other in a different setting. These events also help raise money for the Dad's Club. Over the past few years, we have been able to raise approximately \$45,000, which enables us to fund some of the many needs at the school.

The Dad's Club has five board members consisting of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary and communications. We currently have about 30 active members that regularly attend meetings and volunteer their time at our events. It is easy to get involved as the Dads' Club does not have a specified time commitment. We typically meet on the second Monday of every month for about an hour to discuss upcoming events and recap the prior months events.

For more information on how to get involved email dadsclub@olmcschool.info

Our Events

- Welcome Back BBQ
- Monthly food fundraisers at different restaurants around the Tempe area
- Cornhole Tournament
- Family Movie Night
- Casino Night
- Father/Daughter Dance
- OLMC Festival (Burger & Hot Dog Stand)
- Trivia Night

All event fundraising goes right back into OLMC School to benefit our children

Recent contributions:

- Installed chilled water fountains with bottle fillers around campus.
- Paid for resurfacing the west basketball court and installed new backboards.
- Provided partial funding for new library shelves.
- Helped purchase materials for kindergarten playground remodel and provided labor.
- Currently working on replacing five new exterior classroom doors.
- Upgraded the sound system in McCready Hall by purchasing and installing new speakers.



A Year's Overview by Mrs. Lisa Sullivan Home & School President

HOME & SCHOOL

Mission Statement and Purpose

The Home & School Board is a service ministry devoted to organizing the school community through governing administrative efforts for its teachers, parents, volunteers, staff, and administration.

What We Do:

Acting as a liaison between our administration and families, Home & School enriches our school by encouraging family involvement and communication. The Home & School ministry is devoted to building the kind of school community spirit in which teachers and students can thrive, making a more effective and efficient educational environment.

For more information about OLMC Home & School, contact homeandschool@olmcschool.info

Our Events:

- Monthly parent meetings and/or coffee socials
- Staff lunches, lounge treats and decorations throughout the year
- Fall Festival
- Teacher Christmas Breakfast
- Saint Nicholas Breakfast and Feast Day Celebration
- OLMC Spirit Store
- Used Uniform Sales
- Catholic Schools Week
- Falcon Fun Run
- Falcon Field Day
- Mother/Son Kickball
- Staff Appreciation Week



A Year's Overview by Mrs. Monica Ferrance, Little Lambs Preschool Director

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL

Kindergarten is a big step in a young child's life. Our preschool breaks it all down into smaller steps to help make the transition easier. Our daily curriculum covers: faith formation, social and emotional skills, and academic foundation.

Our preschool is a Christ-centered and play-based learning environment. We learn about the Holy Family, saints, feast days, and prayers. On our Blessed Mother's feast days, the children and staff process around the elementary school campus with music, ribbons or flowers to honor her. In addition, the children participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and we incorporate the Baltimore catechism weekly.

We believe that in a caring and positive atmosphere a child will develop at his/her own pace and to his/her fullest potential. Part of our curriculum engages students in large or small group activities that facilitate respect, sharing, listening, cooperation and problem solving. Also, our preschoolers are paired with OLMC fourth graders as "buddies" and attend Mass with them on occasion. As our preschoolers enter Kindergarten, they have friends in the upper classes as well as in their own grade.

Our curriculum covers ages 3s, young 4s, and pre-k. We provide age appropriate activities to develop kindergarten readiness. Activities include listening, language development, problem solving, group interaction, letter and sound recognition, counting and number recognition along with small and large motor activities, dramatic play, creative art, literature and music.

In conclusion, our preschool is unique due to our faith formation, social and emotional positive environment, and Kindergarten readiness academic foundation. We are a ministry to families of young children and are dedicated to providing a quality Catholic preschool program to meet the needs of our community.

God love you,

Monica Ferrance
OLMC Preschool Director



Preschool Staff

Director

Mrs. Monica Ferrance

Preschool Office Manager

Mrs. Mari Marfé

Lead 3s Teachers

Miss Ali McDaniel

Miss Meredith Mowbray

3s Aides

Miss Kyra O'Connor

Miss Emma Zavala

Lead 4s Teacher

Mrs. Mary Acevedo

Young 4's Aide

Miss Isabella Van Daam

Lead Pre-K Teachers

Mrs. Anna Aguilera

Mrs. Marianna Greuel

Mrs. Ashley Perez

Pre-K Aides

Mrs. Nicole Montes

Mrs. Cali Corbett

Miss Ashley Prendergast

Miss Amanda Stoft

Atrium

Mrs. Katie Pabst



A Year's Overview by Mrs. Monica Ferrance, Little Lambs Preschool Director

Little Lambs Preschool

Here at Little Lambs Preschool, we have developed a relationship with the kindergarten teachers for a smooth transition into elementary school. This relationship fosters better communication between teachers to identify potential areas of concern or strengths early on.

We share curriculum to get our pre-k students prepared for the following year. Our teachers create a cohesive learning environment that builds upon concepts introduced in preschool and prepares children for kindergarten expectations. For example, we use Happily Ever After, a reading readiness program, which is the introduction to SuperKids that is used in kindergarten. We work with the kindergarten teachers to ensure that the preschool and kindergarten curriculum seamlessly connect and make it fun for our students to learn.



Please visit our website: olmclittlelambs.org
or email monica@olmctempe.com for more information.



ADMISSION PROCESS K-8TH GRADE



- Parents fill out Inquiry/Application online
- Development Director responds with an email or call
- Tours - Wednesday and Fridays
- AFTER APPLICATION- Online application requires families to upload- report card, IEP, 504, MET or SSP if they have one.
 - New student testing-Reading & Math. During testing the Special education team evaluates students' academic ability and behaviors.
 - Religious Education- has the potential new student received sacraments, or do they need to receive them.
 - Has the student been asked to leave a school before? If the student is coming from another Catholic school, Dr. Shewbridge calls the principal to discuss the student.
 - Two recommendation letters required for all applicants.
 - Family and student interview with Dr. Shewbridge.
- Administrative team meets to discuss family, testing, report cards, behaviors and make a decision on acceptance.

ADMISSION PROCESS PRESCHOOL

- Parents fill out Inquiry/Application online
- Preschool Director responds with an email or call
- Tours - Mondays - Thursdays
- Online application requires families to upload- IEP, 504, MET or SSP if they have one. New student evaluation on preschool readiness.
- Religious Education- has the potential new student received the sacrament of Baptism
- Preschool Administrative team meets to discuss and make a decision based on class size, potty training, and preschool readiness for acceptance.



CONNECT WITH US



How to Connect with us:

Website:

olmcschool.info

The Falcon Flyer

- Our weekly school newsletter is sent out on Sundays at 5:00pm.
- [Sign up to receive the newsletter here](#)

Social Media

facebook.com/olmcschool

instagram.com/olmcschool

Room Parent emails:

Monthly or more!

To view the full digital report including live links scan the QR code.

