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(NEASC)

The Parish School of Saint George
and Saint Margaret

June 14, 2017

Greetings OLM Families,

We hope by now you all have had time to reflect on the wonderful news shared by our Vision Committee last week. The news that Our Lady of Mercy School will soon finalize the details of a lease extension permitting use of the 149 Neck Rd facility through 2023 is an occasion worth celebrating and a blessing for which we can all give thanks! Also worth celebrating are the many accomplishments of our school community this past year and the growth minded plan Mrs. Panzo will be leading in the new academic year to come.

As many of you may remember from our State of the School presentation, Mrs. Panzo and her leadership team have outlined an exciting vision with several outstanding enhancements to our Blue Ribbon School. At the top of our list is the ever-expanding focus on the faith. With weekly mass, biweekly community prayer, the campus ministry, and the many faith-based celebrations that occur throughout the year - i.e. Christmas Pageant, Tree Lighting, Stations of the Cross, etc – we can take great pride in our school's ability to build and celebrate the Catholic Faith in our children. Combined with a passion toward service, these attributes make OLM a truly unique place to educate our children.

Next is the focus on continuously improving academics with new curriculum products in math and science, expanded professional development programs for our staff, integration of standardized testing data to guide teaching strategies, and a vertical alignment of our curriculum to allow for improved year-to-year carryover as children move through our school. These enhancements have already been approved by the school board, align with Archdiocesan standards, and are already in motion to come on-line for the 2017/2018 school year. Parents and students will see some of these changes evidenced in our classrooms as early as September.

Lastly, improvements to our school resources will allow students to better reach their individual potential while providing the necessary skills for success in the ever-changing 21st century landscape. We have already allocated funds to increase iPad and Chromebook numbers in our school (we expect to reach a 1:1 ratio within 3 years), increase staffing to support math/science/tech curriculum, and improve arts resources for what will remain a balanced and diverse curriculum across the content areas of Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math...known in the halls of OLM as STREAM! When combined with our programs in History, Drama, Music, Public Speaking, and English/Language Arts, the value of an OLM education is second to none!

While the framework above can raise excitement about all the wonderful changes we can anticipate in the next few years, one thing will remain the same – OLM is about community. A community of caring teachers, engaged parents, and a student body that is encouraged to love one another, support one another, and grow together. These things are the legacy of OLM and they will remain as they have been for generations. Our staff and our families make OLM what it is today and it is our staff and our families, under the guidance of Mrs. Panzo and her team that will shape OLM for tomorrow. We wish you a safe and happy summer and we look forward to seeing you and your children when you return in the fall.

Sincerely in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Daniel J. McLearn in cursive.

Fr. Daniel J. McLearn

Handwritten signature of Fr. Stephen M. Sledesky in cursive.

Fr. Stephen M. Sledesky



Nurtures, guides and inspires the child to be Christ in the world