



# Our Lady of Victory School

*Where Teaching Is Caring*

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Dear OLV Families,

In reflecting on this school year, it truly feels like two separate years, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>. We continue to be blessed with dedicated staff and families. This was even more clear this spring as we had to work together to shift into Distance Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been honored to be part of your child and your family's lives this past year through everything it has given us. We were able to celebrate some new staff members this school year. Danielle Stevens joined us in the fall to teach half day 3-4 Preschool and help out in many other areas around the school. In December, we welcomed Leah Kunde as our new Administrative Assistant after Ms. Becky took another job closer to her home. Then in January, Rachel Cox joined our OLV family to head up development, Barton tutoring and grant writing.

The OLV family continues to grow as we welcomed 24 Kindergarten students this year and graduated nine 6<sup>th</sup> graders with a total enrollment of 116 students k-6. Our Preschool program continues to offer half and full day options for students 3-5 years old. Demand for this program continues to be high, as we started the year with all classes full at 10 students. With the leadership of Ms. Karla, OLV students hosted a bilingual mass to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe complete with student dancers. We were treated to another amazing Christmas Program and got to celebrate Catholic Schools Week as a school community. In mid-March we transitioned to Distance Learning and continued making memories with our classmates but in a different way. Our families continued to find joy in their days and these pictures will be shared in the yearbook supplement pages. I want to extend a huge thank you to Ms. Wendy for continuing to provide wonderful meals to our families and to Ms. Karla and Ms. Danielle for providing child care during Distance Learning. We could not have made this transition work without them.

Any families that were receiving free or reduced meal benefits during the school year can continue to access free summer meals by going to the website <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>. Put in your location to find the nearest Summer Food Program site and serving times.

Looking ahead to next school year, our enrollment numbers look very strong. Learning Ladder Preschool has just one opening in the T/Th full day class and one opening in T/Th 3-4 yr old half day class. We are still taking registration for all grades K-6 for next school year. If you know of families interested in OLV please help spread the word about our wonderful school. As for our projected K-6 enrollment, we are anticipating to be over the 110 student mark for the 2019-2020 school year. **August registration meetings will be held Wednesday, August 14 at 11:30am and 6pm for all Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.**

Each summer, MNSAA, the group that accredits our school, asks us to send out a "State of the School" letter to families informing them of the progress we have made towards our School Strategic Plan goals this past year and plans for the future. Below you will find our current School Strategic Plan with notes on the progress that was made towards the objectives this past school year and the plans for the future.

**OLV's current School Strategic Plan (SSP):** MNSAA requires that each school have a vision for their future and that they develop a plan to guide their improvements. Our current SSP was written during the 2016-17 school year as part of our Accreditation process and is in place for the next six years. This is an update of the current plan we are working on.

**Objective 1: OLV will attract new families and retain current students**

**Strategy 1:** Develop and implement a marketing plan to attract new families and engage alumni

*Status: During 2017-18 a basic marketing plan was established to promote OLV through social media. This plan continued during the 2018-19 school year. During 2019-2020, we will evaluate our current plan.*

**Strategy 2:** Develop a plan to keep tuition affordable

*Status: In May of 2019, Home and School changed the goal of the scrip fundraiser. Families will now be able to use the rebates earned over the initial \$100 to reduce their tuition responsibility for the 2019-20 school year.*

**Strategy 3:** Develop scholarship options for Non Catholic Students

*Status: The Endowment Board agreed to a 2 year trial of scholarships for all students regardless of religion prior to the 2017-2018. The school year 2018-2019 was the second year of this trial. A third trial year for 2019-2020 has been approved.*

**Strategy 4:** Establish Barton Tutoring service for students with Dyslexia

*Status: All students in K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are screened according to Standardized benchmarks. There are currently 14 students K-6 working within the tutoring program. Moving forward, we will continue to train tutors to service our enrolled students.*

**Objective 2: OLV will maintain a safe, attractive learning facility that accommodates growth**

**Strategy 1:** Establish a line of communication between outside facilities and main office to ensure student safety

*Status: Staff took two-way radios with them when they left the building and grounds. These were used to communicate with the main office.*

**Strategy 2:** Expand facility to accommodate school growth and storage needs

*Status: OLV has received permission from Bishop Donald Kettler to continue the process of determining future needs of the parish and school. A building committee will be formed to continue this work.*

**Objective 3: Consistent communication for student success**

**Strategy 1:** Utilize a Student Information System for centralization of information, record keeping

*Status: Staff has started gathering information about SIS available and used by other Catholic schools. This work will continue into the 2019-20 school year.*

**Strategy 2:** Uniform report cards with meaningful information

*Status: A new uniform report card format was used for K-6 during the 2018-19 school year. Graded areas and wording was consistent across grade levels. The next step is to evaluate and adjust as needed.*

**Strategy 3:** Consistently use learning targets in classrooms to guide learner outcomes

*Status: Teachers continue working with learning targets to direct student learning.*

**Strategy 4:** Develop information database for families about events, programs that occur throughout the year

*Status: A section was added on the school website to address common parent questions.*

**Strategy 5:** Develop and implement Music and Spanish Standards to guide instruction

*Status: Music standards have been reviewed and are guiding instruction.*

**Objective 4: Attract and retain quality staff**

**Strategy 1:** Develop a Principal that meets the requirements of MNSAA

*Status: During May 2018, the Principal completed her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership through MSUM. She now meets the requirements set forth by MNSAA to be the leadership of the school.*

**Strategy 2:** Review compensation packages to ensure a just wage for all staff

*Status: The 2018-19 school year was the first year of a 3year plan to get teachers to 80% of their public school counterpart. Funding sources continue to meet the needs of this plan. All teachers have signed their contracts to return. In 2019-2020, the committee will monitor funding sources and expenses.*

Strategy 3: Establish a thorough listing of job posting and candidate search avenues

*Status: This work will begin during the 2019-20 school year.*

In closing, I hope each of you is able to make wonderful memories with your children and families this summer. My mom always said that each year goes faster than the one before... this seems to be holding true. Each stage of life has unique and special things to celebrate and enjoy. Find the joy in each of these stages, do not wish it away, it does go by fast. May God's love and mercy continue to shine down on each of you.

Tonya Zierden, OLV Principal