



Our Lady of Grace Catholic School eLion's Tales - August 10, 2022

Message from the Principal

August 10, 2022

Dear School Families,

With great joy I would like to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. It promises to be a year of sharing our talents, educating our children and taking Our Lady of Grace School to new heights both academically and in the development of our Catholic Identity.

I have always been passionate about Catholic education, and I am honored to serve this year as your principal. I am new to the Diocese of Oakland although I grew up on the Peninsula (proud grad. of the former Convent of the Sacred Heart, Atherton, and B.A. from USF), so I am “coming home” to the Bay Area. I moved here a year ago in order to be close to my children and grandchildren and after working ten months for the Diocese of Oakland as Coordinator of Faith Formation, I am delighted to give up the long daily commute to the cathedral.

Since I became a widow in 2017, I have worked in Residence Life and Campus Ministry at the University of Portland and taught religion at Valley Catholic School, Beaverton, Oregon. Prior to my husband’s death, I was the principal at St. Matthew Catholic School in Phoenix, AZ for thirteen years, taught Ethics and Literature at Grand Canyon University, directed three non-profits, had a private counseling practice and worked as a parish administrator at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Phoenix.

I have masters’ degrees from University of Portland and University of Phoenix as well as credentials in single subject, multiple subjects and an administrative credential in Catholic School leadership from the University of San Francisco. I am also happy to hold a Master Catechist certificate and an honorary Doctorate in Letters from Boston College

Our Faculty and Staff are checking in this week to prepare the classrooms for school on August 15th. During the summer break, we welcomed our new Office Manager, Mrs. Castaing and our new Secretary, Ms. Townsend. Ms. Dawson also assumed a well-deserved position as our new Assistant Principal.

As of last Thursday, our faculty was complete. Unfortunately, our newly hired 5th grade teacher was the victim of a traumatic assault and because of that she will not be joining our staff. Please keep her in prayer.

Our newest additions to the faculty are Mr. Emmit Hancock, Kindergarten, Mrs. Sherri Moradi, Third Grade, and Mr. Aaron Avila, Spanish. We also welcome a new school counselor, Ms. Maria Washington. Lastly, Mrs. Fajardo will be transitioning into full time TK Spanish immersion and K Spanish. Lots of changes, lots of new energy.

Due to our present situation, I will begin the school year with our 5th grade while we search for a permanent 5th grade teacher. I have to say that I am looking forward to being “back in a classroom!” It’s the part that made me want to work in schools forever!

These past two years have been difficult principally due to all the COVID restrictions. I am looking forward to welcoming all of you both long-time families and new ones to *your* Catholic School. Please see the accompanying flier on our upcoming “Family Fun Day” and I hope to see you all there.

In Our Lady’s Name and love,

Mrs. Gena McGowan, Principal

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School 2022-2023 Calendar

Please click [here](#) for the OLG School 2022-2023 Calendar

Looking Ahead

August:

- Saturday, August 13 - New Family Welcome Event 9-10:30am
- Monday, August 15 - First Day of School - Noon Dismissal **NO MORNING KID KARE**
- Tuesday, August 23 - Back to School Night TK-5
- Wednesday, August 24- Back to School Night 6-8
- Friday, August 26 - Free Dress August Birthdays

OLG Family Fun Day

75th Anniversary

OUR LADY OF GRACE
CHURCH



75th Anniversary
1947 - 2022

CELEBRATING 75 Years!



Sept

25th

10AM - 3PM

SAVE THE DATE!!

Bring your family to Mass and then join the OLG Community in celebrating 75 Years of Parish faith, community and love!

Each class will have a designated booth with a great theme. You won't want to miss the fun with your families and classmates! More information SOON!!

FUN!

- Food
- Games
- Entertainment
- And More!

\$75 for 75 Years!

Please join our \$75 for 75 Years campaign! Each family is being asked to donate \$75 to support the cost of the event. Please donate online at www.olgcv.org/donate. Each School Family that donates will be registered in a raffle for a \$750 scholarship or a bike valued at \$300!!

CONTACT US

75@olgschool.org

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School



COME JOIN!
OLG SCHOOL CHOIR
4TH THRU 8TH GRADES

FIRST CHOIR REHEARSAL TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022
3:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

WE WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH (ENTER ON THE GATHERING AREA SIDE)

It's time to bring the choir back together to sing at school masses, other events throughout the school year, and an occasional 5:00 p.m. Saturday or 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Let's meet after school and SIIINGGGGG!!!

This year the choir will be limited to 20 members. At the first rehearsal, I will meet with each student, talk to them about their interest in choir, and have them sing a song for me (not in front of the whole group). I want this experience to be the best for all members. Each student, with his or her family, needs to be committed to make the Choir a great success. Choir members in Grade 5-8 earn 2 of their required service hours each trimester.

Parents please sign: I give permission for my child to participate in the School Choir. I understand that rehearsals will be on Tuesdays after school and my child is required to be at rehearsals and performances. Unless prior notification has been given, my child is allowed to miss one practice per trimester. My son/daughter must be picked up by 4:05 p.m. If I'm not at the church by 4:05 p.m., he/she will be taken to Kid Care.

Child's name: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

19920 Anita Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: CLAUDIA DOBBS AT CDOBBS@CSDO.ORG

**Help us make a beautiful noise unto the Lord...
...by sponsoring a handchime!**



Our Lady of Grace Catholic School's junior high elective program is starting a handchime choir, but we need handchimes and music to get this going! For just \$75, you can sponsor one of the 25 handchimes in the above set and help pay for music. Thank you so much for your generous support!

Yes, I can contribute _____ toward the OLG School Handchime Choir!

Thank you again for your support!

**Siblings of Existing Students - New Student Applications Only
Click the link below to apply.**

[2022-2023 New Student Application](#)

To enter Kindergarten, a student must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2022. (Date of birth must be on or before September 1, 2017). To enter Transitional Kindergarten, a student must turn 5 between September 2, 2022 and March 2, 2023

**Please Go to <https://www.olgschool.org/admissions>
for Financial Assistance Information**

Our Lady of Grace Parish

Please click [here](#) for the Parish website where you can find contact information, the most recent church bulletin, current announcements, mass schedules, and much more!

Tech Support

For tech issues and support please email mtrgo@olgschool.org.



Support OLG by shopping on Amazon Smile!

Click [here](#) and choose Our Lady of Grace School
Location: Castro Valley, CA

OLG School Social Media

Please follow us on Instagram and Twitter and like us on Facebook. If you have any questions please feel free to email our Social Media Coordinator, Miss Dawson, sdawson@csdo.org



Instagram & Twitter: [@olgcvschool](https://www.instagram.com/olgcvschool)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/olgcvschool>

OLG School's History and Legacy site can be found at olgschoolconnect.org. The Alumni-Private page can be accessed with the password: "specialis".

OLG Mission & Philosophy

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School serves a diverse community, models Christ through unity, truth, and love to create a balance of spiritual, academic, and social growth.

Philosophy

Dedicated to living Christ's message, Our Lady of Grace is a Catholic school made up of students, faculty, staff and families working together with love and respect. While recognizing parents as the primary educators of their children, our community works together to develop individuals who are prepared to think critically, imbued with a strong sense of self-worth, and filled with a Christ-like approach to others.