

# FACT SHEET

*Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School seeks to create a nurturing environment grounded in the Catholic faith, which provides for the spiritual and academic development of each child.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Established 1951 by the Archdiocese of Atlanta

Awarded the 2011 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Staffed by the Sisters of Mercy from 1951-1988

Principal — Mrs. Anita Nagel

- B.S Elementary Education / M.Ed Educational Leadership
- 15 years teaching experience / 11 years administration
- Joined OLACS 2006-2007

Grade Levels

- Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- Two Classes per Grade Level

School Hours

- 7:50 am – 3:15 pm (2:45 pm Pre-K dismissal)
- 7:50 am – 2:00 pm each Wednesday (1:30 pm Pre-K)

Before/After Care

- Early supervision for students begins at 7:15 am
- Fee-based, parish-run Extended Care Program (ECP) available until 6:00 pm

## STUDENT BODY

Enrollment

- 521 Students
- 350 Families

Demographics

- 93% Catholic
- 64% Our Lady of the Assumption parishioners
- 19% ethnic minorities

Draws from Brookhaven, Chamblee, Dunwoody, Norcross and Sandy Springs

96% of students attend Catholic high schools

## RESOURCES

On-line parent access to grades weekly

SmartBoards, projectors, and audio systems in each classroom

Over 15,000 catalogued items in the Media Center

Online research databases with home access

Hands-on Science Lab

Support Services staff for all grades

Educational psychologist on staff

School clinic staffed by registered nurses

## SPECIALS & ENRICHMENT

Art / Library / Physical Education (PK-8)

General Music (PK-3) • Band/Choir (4-8)

Enrichment Spanish (PK-4) • Spanish (5-8)

Instructional Computer Lab (K-4)

Integrated Curriculum Computer Lab (5-8)

Curriculum-Based Field Trips & Cultural Arts Programs (PK-8)

Religious Retreats (7-8)

## ACADEMICS

Standardized Testing

- ITBS scores in the top 10% nationally
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered to grades 1-8
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) administered to grades 2, 5, and 7
- Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (ACRE) administered to grades 5 and 8

Class Sizes

- Pre-K — 16:2
  - Kindergarten — 26:2
  - 1st – 3rd Grades — 28:1
  - 4th – 6th Grades — 30:1
  - 7th – 8th Grades — 25:1
- Pre-K and K have full-day aides; half-day aides serve other classrooms

## FACULTY & STAFF

100% of teaching faculty hold teaching certificates

40% hold a Master's degree or higher

39 teaching staff • 10 non-teaching faculty • 14 teaching aides

Average years of teaching experience: 13 years

Years of teaching experience range: 1 year to 39 years

Average length of service at OLACS: 8 years

OLACS Alumni on Staff: 5

## ACCREDITATIONS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- **SAIS/SACS** (Southern Association of Independent Schools/ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)
- **NCEA** (National Catholic Education Association)
- **GISA** (Georgia Independent Schools Association)
- **AAAIS** (Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools)
- **NMSA** (National Middle School Association)
- **NAESP** (National Association of Elementary School Principals)
- **NASSP** (National Association of Secondary School Principals)

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Average Annual Fund Participation Percentage — 95%


Volunteer Hours Logged (2009-2010) — 6000

- Average Hours Logged per Family — 18
- Average Unlogged Hours — Untold!

Volunteer Opportunities

- School Advisory Council
- Home & School Board
- Spiritual Life Group
- Classroom Level

*Faith † Knowledge † Service † Community*

  
**Our Lady of the Assumption  
Catholic School**  
*established in 1951*

# RELIGION CURRICULUM

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## **Pre-Kindergarten — *Discovering God's World* (Sadlier-Oxford)**

Religion is geared to teach the students about Mass and the various ways one can participate in Mass. Each lesson contains a scripture based story, an activity, and a prayer. A parent letter of explanation accompanies each lesson. There are also special units for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and the Easter season.

## **Kindergarten — *Faith First* (RCL)**

Religion is geared to teach the students about Mass and the various ways one can participate in Mass. Bible stories as well as prayers are taught on a daily basis. There are also special units studied for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and the Easter season. The class participates in a year-long commitment of service to the school and community through a variety of activities guided by OLA Catholic School's Coordinator of Religious Education and the Spiritual Life Committee of the Home and School Association.

## **First Grade — *Faith First* (RCL)**

The focus is on the explanation of the Creed and our Catholic identity. There are also special units taught for Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Easter Triduum, and the Easter season. The class participates in a year-long commitment of service to the school and community through a variety of activities guided by OLA Catholic School's Coordinator of Religion and the Spiritual Life Committee of the Home and School Association.

## **Second Grade — *Faith First* (RCL)**

Discussion of Catholic beliefs and worship as a community are the main topics studied in the second grade religion classes. Preparation for the First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is an important focus in this year's religion class. Every month a new virtue will be discussed, and the class participates in a year-long commitment of service to the school and community.

## **Third Grade — *Faith First* (RCL)**

Third grade religion centers on our Catholic beliefs and worship as a community. Every month a new virtue is discussed, and the class participates in a year-long commitment of service to the school and community.

## **Fourth and Fifth Grades — *Faith First* (RCL)**

The Faith First curriculum is divided into five units of study including: We Believe; We Worship; We Live; We Pray and We Celebrate; The Liturgical Seasons. Prayer is an important part of each day. Students participate in Mass either at grade level or with the entire student body.

## **Sixth Grade — *Faith First* (RCL)**

The focus of the sixth grade catechesis is the development of God's relationship with man. The prophetic messages of the Old Testament are studied. Student participation in Mass, Prayer Services, and service projects are an integral part of the religion curriculum.

## **Seventh Grade — *Faith First* (RCL)**

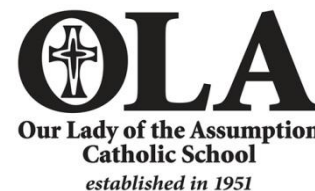
The seventh grade catechesis is the life of Jesus Christ as it is portrayed by the four Gospel writers and the rise and worship of his church. The Sacred Scripture is used to discuss and analyze the deposit of faith, emphasizing Catholic Social Teaching.

## **Eighth Grade — *Faith First* (RCL)**

The focus of this level of religion is on the development of Christ's church. The following topics are addressed throughout the year; Church History, from Apostolic Age to the Church in the Spirit of Vatican II, and Morality as our personal role in the church.

*Faith † Knowledge † Service † Community*

**2011 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence**



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## **RELIGION: Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade**

Daily religious instruction is based upon Catholic faith-based traditions of the Roman Catholic Faith, and the four pillars of the catechism of the Roman Catholic church — creed, prayer, liturgy, and morality — and the *Faith First* textbook series is utilized to emphasize the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. There is a strong focus on the study of faith so students understand exactly *why* they are called to be active participants in the world around them, even at such an early age.

Faith-instruction spreads beyond the classroom, and students are frequently involved in school-wide service activities. Students pray daily, both as a group at the beginning and end of the day, and within the classrooms, as well as attend Mass and prayer services at least twice monthly.

## **COLLINS WRITING PROGRAM: Kindergarten through Eighth Grade**

A comprehensive writing program designed to simultaneously improve students' thinking and writing skills, Collins emphasizes writing to learn and is utilized across the curriculum in each grade level.

## **SPECIALS, ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR**

Art (PK-8) • Library (PK-8) • Physical Education (PK-8) • General Music (K-3) • Band/Choir (4-8) • Technology Instruction (K-4) Integrated Technology (5-8) • Curriculum-based field trips (PK-8) • Cultural Arts program (PK-8) • Service Projects (PK-8) Battle of the Books (3-6) • Spelling Bee (4-8) • Geography Bee (5-8) • Student Council (5-8) • Peace Patrol (5-8) • Safety Patrol (5-8) • Oratorical (6-8) Literary Magazine Staff (6-7) • Math Competition (6-8) • Yearbook Staff (7-8) • National Junior Honor Society (7-8) • Religious Retreats (7-8)

## **PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

**Textbooks:** *Little Treasures* (McGraw-Hill) and *Handwriting without Tears*

**Program Components:** phonemic awareness • theme-based units of study • faith-based curriculum emphasizing bible stories and Mass themes

**Specials:** art • library • music • Spanish • P.E.

## **KINDERGARTEN through SECOND GRADE**

### **Language Arts**

**Textbooks:** *Treasures* reading series (McGraw-Hill)

**Program Components:** phonemic awareness • phonics • mnemonic recognition • guided reading • writing • handwriting

### **Math**

**Textbooks:** *Mathematics* (McGraw-Hill)

**Program Components:** number recognition • computation of mathematical operations • introduction to geometry (shapes/patterns) • time, money and problem solving • concepts and estimation

### **Science and Social Studies**

**Textbooks:** *A Closer Look* (McGraw-Hill), Harcourt

**Program Components:** weather/seasons • five senses • animals • habitats • matter • earth through time • light and color scientific inquiry • community • cultural diversity • simple economics • government • civics

### **Spanish (Enrichment)**

**Program Components:** Includes an introduction to the language, culture and traditions through music, hands-on activities and conversational phrases

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# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## THIRD through FIFTH GRADE

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### Language Arts

**Textbooks:** *Treasures* reading series (McGraw-Hill); *Vocabulary Workshop (3)*, *Greek and Latin roots (4-5)*

**Program Components:** reading comprehension • written expression • vocabulary • spelling • critical thinking skills

### Math

**Textbooks:** Mathematics (McGraw-Hill)

**Program Components:** computation • problem solving • geometry • estimation • statistics • algebraic concepts

### Science

**Textbooks:** *A Closer Look at Science (McGraw-Hill)*

**Program Components:** life cycles • geology • energy • plants • animals • intro to kingdoms • scientific method/inquiry

### Social Studies

**Textbooks:** Harcourt and Prentice Hall

**Program Components:**

**3rd grade** — US and World communities • geography • civics • economics

**4th grade** — Geography and regional studies of the United States

**5th grade** — Geographic study of the Americas (North and South) • ancient origins to present

### Spanish (Enrichment)

**Textbooks:** Prentice Hall

**Program Components:** Includes an introduction to the language, culture and traditions through music, hands-on activities and conversational phrases

**Advanced Program (MAC)** — Language Arts (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) and Math (5<sup>th</sup>)

Incorporates the grade-level curriculum at an accelerated pace with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving.

## SIXTH through EIGHTH GRADE (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

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### Language Arts

**Textbooks:** McDougal-Littell, Scribner and Sadlier-Oxford; *Daily Grammar Practice*; *Greek and Latin roots*

**Program Components:** grammar • writing • vocabulary • spelling • literature • basal readers/novel studies

### Math

**Textbooks:** Glencoe, Holt and McDougal-Littell

**Program Components:** computation (properties and estimation) • problem solving • measurement • properties and conversion • statistics • geometry • algebraic concepts and functions

**Advanced Level** — 7th grade Pre-Algebra • 8th Grade Algebra

### Science

**Textbooks:** *Science Explorer* (Prentice-Hall)

**Program Components:**

**6th grade** — earth science • space • scientific method • scientific inquiry

**7th grade** — life science • scientific method • scientific inquiry

**8th grade** — physical science • chemistry • scientific method • scientific inquiry

### Social Studies

**Textbooks:** Harcourt and Glencoe series

**Program Components:**

**6th grade** — Ancient Civilizations of Europe, Asia and Africa

**7th Grade** — Early American History to the Civil War

**8th Grade** — American History from Reconstruction to Present • Georgia History • the Constitution

### Spanish

**Textbooks:** Holt, Rhinehart and Winston

**Program Components:** core curriculum • introduction to the language, culture and traditions using speaking, listening, writing, projects and story-telling techniques



# **Middle School at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School**

The goal of Middle School is to provide an environment that challenges your child both academically and developmentally. OLACS has high expectations for students as they develop their leadership skills in a caring environment with Catholic traditions. Expect to see the following changes as students transition to Middle School at OLACS:

## **Religion**

As a Catholic middle school rooted in our rich Catholic traditions, religion is taught four days per week. Wednesday is set aside for Mass and service projects. There are many opportunities for a child to put his/her faith into action through school-sponsored service project activities.

## **Multiple teachers**

Each child will have different teachers for many classes and will continue to have specials in music (band/choir), art, and physical education, as well as library time each week.

## **Rotating schedule**

Each child will experience the core curriculum of math, literature, English, religion, social studies, science, Spanish, and vocabulary/spelling/writing as well as the Specials classes.

It may seem confusing at first to a child, but the teachers find that by the second week of school, the students really enjoy moving from class to class and socializing with different students in each class.

## **Math level placement based on prior demonstrated abilities**

Math levels vary in Middle School. Students are placed in a class based on a six-point evaluations/criteria developed by the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The goal is to place each child where he/she is best suited. The criteria that influence the math placement for students are

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) 5 <sup>th</sup> grade math grades            | 4) 5 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher's recommendation |
| 2) 5 <sup>th</sup> grade homework participation | 5) ITBS scores                                    |
| 3) 5 <sup>th</sup> grade classroom attitude     | 6) CogAt scores                                   |

## **Language Arts curriculum**

Students will receive increased language arts experiences, including literature, spelling/vocabulary, English, and writing. The emphasis throughout the Middle School curriculum is on enhancing the students' awareness of genre and integrating writing throughout the curriculum.

## **Computer skills will be integrated throughout the curriculum**

Students visit the Computer Lab to increase computer skills and knowledge as it relates to all core classes. Computer time is used to reinforce the learning taking place in the classroom and to provide the student with an alternative method of learning.

## **Increased leadership opportunities**

OLA Catholic School strives to find the right balance between academics, social activities, and extracurricular activities for its students. They may take a larger role in many activities including, but not limited to, Student Council, Literary Magazine, Yearbook, Band, Choir, Musical Productions, Tech Club, Lector Club, Peace Patrol, National Junior Honor Society, Student Ambassadors, and Safety Patrol.

Additionally, students have the opportunity to attend student-planned, teacher-supervised dances, and seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to participate in off-campus religious retreats.

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*Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School*  
**Home & School Association**

HSA is an active group that works with parents and faculty to enrich our school community and the educational experience of our students.

**The OLACS Home & School Association consists of:**

**Spiritual Life**

- Service Projects, both school-wide and grade-specific
- Prayer Services and Prayer Chains
- Classroom Spiritual Angels

**Community and Hospitality**

- Family Game Night
- Donuts with Dad/Special Friends & Muffins with Mom/Special Friends
- Summer Buddies
- New Family Social

**Volunteer Services**

- Room Parents
- PTO Database
- Used Uniform
- Meet & Greet

**Enrichment Services**

- Cultural Arts Programs
- Field Trip Fact Finding

**Development & Fundraising**

- Family Fun Run
- Gala
- Sally Foster
- Publix Cards/Boxtops

**Communications**

- Monthly Newsletter
- Website Liaison

*We welcome our parent volunteers and have many more opportunities for various levels of involvement.*