



June 6, 2023

Dear OLV Families,

The 2022-2023 school year has come to a close and summer break is officially here. As I reflect on the last nine months, I am reminded of how great OLV School is. When I started as principal in July, I did not know that a few weeks later I would be faced with my first test of adversity. Health issues arose and I was not able to be present in the building when school began. Many other staff members stepped up and helped fill in wherever someone was needed. I appreciate the job that they all did in my absence. OLV School is truly blessed with an incredible team!

We welcomed two new staff members this year: Mrs. Amanda Harig as our second-grade teacher, and Mrs. Sasha Parker as our sixth-grade teacher. They have been great additions to our OLV family.

This year we had 91 total students enrolled in Kindergarten – sixth-grade, along with 40 preschool students. On the last day of school, we had seven students graduate from sixth grade. We celebrated the end of the school year with our annual Grand Celebration where we had a dunk tank, bouncy houses, a tattoo station, and a cupcake trailer. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day weatherwise.

Mrs. Clark directed the spring play this year which was The Jungle Book. Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade did a wonderful job with the performances. A new fundraiser was added this year, World's Finest Chocolate bars. The school raised a total of \$5,768! These funds will be used to help increase our teachers' salaries. The Catholic United Raffle fundraiser brought in a total of \$8,335 this year. We surpassed our goal of \$5,000, which meant that Mr. Rath and Mr. S received pies to the face from multiple students.

Currently for the 2023-2024 school year we have 82 students enrolled in K-6, and 35 preschool students. Fall registration meetings will be held in late-July or early-August, please stay tuned for further information. Summer office hours will be limited. The school's voicemail will be checked regularly, as well as my email: jraths@ffolv.org.

Each summer, MNSAA, the group that accredits the 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 School Strategic Plan with notes on the progress that was made.

OLV's current School Strategic Plan: MNSAA requires that each school have a vision for their future and that they develop a plan to guide their improvements. Our current School Strategic Plan was written during the 2016-2017 school year as part of our accreditation process. This is an update to the strategies of the current plan that 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 2022-2023, we began working with a marketing and advertising company to create a new school logo and begin a marketing strategy.

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

Status: Families continue to utilize the Scrip program to reduce their total tuition.

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

Status: The Endowment Board will continue to offer scholarships to all students regardless of religion. This will continue to be monitored in the future.

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: Security cameras were installed in the school they are viewable in the main office. The main focus of these cameras is the entry doors and hallways. Teachers carry their cell phones with them when going outside or on a field trip.

Objective 3: Consistent communication for student success.

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

Status: The school continues to use JMC as its student information system. This is used for attendance, grades, and lunch counts.

Objective 4: Attract and retain quality staff.

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

Status: I am currently enrolled at Creighton University, working towards my Master's degree in Educational Leadership.

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

Status: We were able to offer teacher contracts this spring that reflected the goal of getting to 80% of the public school.

In closing, I hope that all of you have an enjoyable summer! Safe travels to those that are leaving the area. I look forward to seeing all of the students in the fall.

Sincerely,
Jake Rath
OLV Principal

