



OUR LADY  OF GRACE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2022 - 2023 SCHOOL REPORT

Dear OLG School Community...

Wow, what a fantastic year it's been!

Thanks to the efforts of so many, including our faculty, staff, volunteers, parents, and others, Our Lady of Grace Catholic School flourished this past year.

We welcomed our School's new leadership: Head of School Mike McGinty, Middle School Principal Jim Dahlman, Elementary School Principal Julie Moran, and Preschool Director Nicole Rogers, and they did a wonderful job in their first year here at OLG. We also opened our new addition with a Preschool, a new Middle School wing, and a gym/performing arts center. We welcomed a fourth section of kindergarten and now enjoy our new cafeteria and kitchen. We continued to challenge our students academically, ensuring that our students are equipped for high school and beyond. And as always, we focused on building the character of our students, framed around our Catholic faith with a zeal for making Jesus Christ known and loved.

I pray the Lord will continue to guide us as we aim to emulate Jesus Christ and embody the 2023-24 Our Lady of Grace Church and School theme, "Become My Disciples"!

God bless,



Father Kevin Finnegan
Pastor

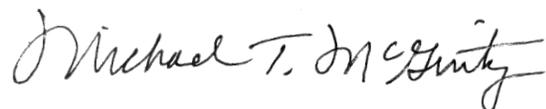
We had a remarkable year, thanks to so many who contributed to our success! As I reflect on my first year at OLG, I feel blessed to be part of this amazing Parish and School. I extend my deepest appreciation for your steadfast support and involvement in our vibrant community.

I am grateful for our exceptional teachers and staff who have excelled at providing an outstanding education and adapting to new ways of teaching and learning. Their unwavering commitment to our students' well-being and academic success has been truly remarkable.

To our parents, we realize that you have a choice when deciding where your child will be educated for their preschool, elementary, and middle school years. Your involvement in your child's education and our school community has been invaluable. Thank you for choosing to have your child attend Our Lady of Grace Catholic School.

I would be remiss if I did not share how appreciative I am for the outstanding support received from Father Kevin Finnegan, the Parish, the PSO, the Men's Club, our many volunteers, and the entire OLG community for everyone's contributions to our amazing School. With God's guidance, OLG proved to be a special place again in 2022-23, and I have no doubts that will continue this fall as we enter our School's 75th year of making Jesus Christ known and loved.

Together are we, OLG!



Mike McGinty
Head of School

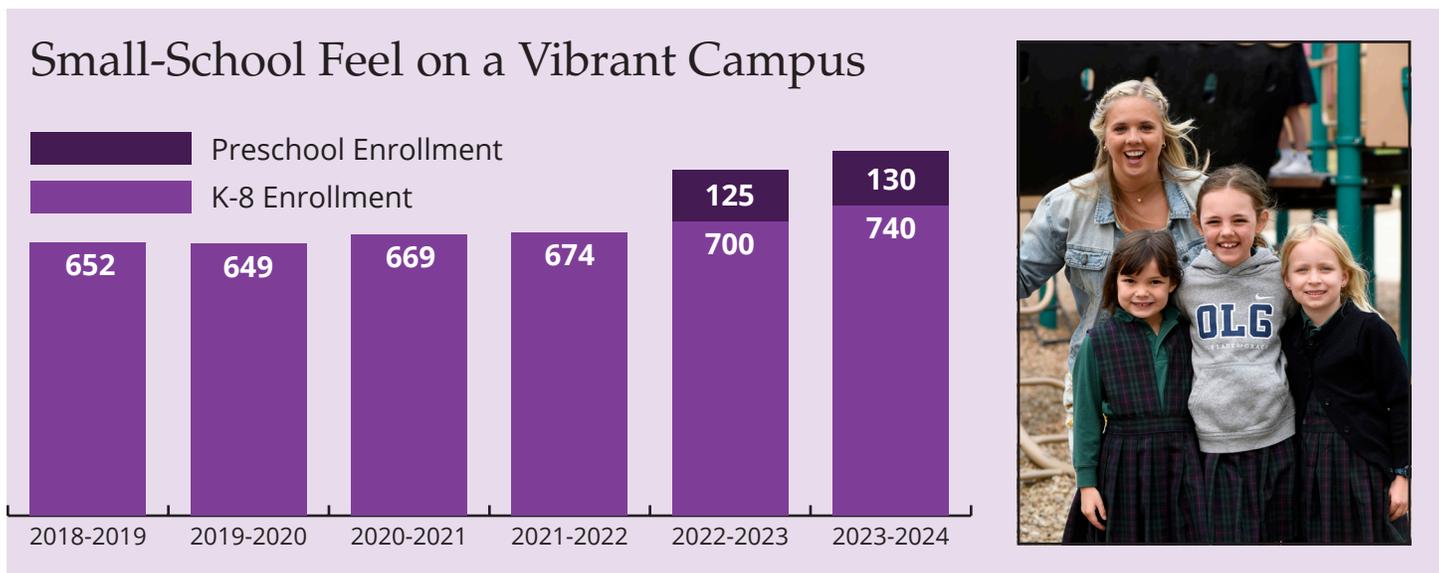


Preparing for the Future

Our First Year of Preschool is in the Books!

The inaugural year of our Preschool was a huge success! We are so thankful to parents for taking a leap of faith and enrolling their children in our brand new program and for trusting us throughout the process. We have been blessed to be able to offer two different preschool programs: the Little Saints Program for ages 3 - 4, and the Young Scholars Program for ages 4 - 5.

We are so thankful for the leadership of our Preschool Director, Ms. Nicole Rogers, our amazing Preschool Teachers, and our dedicated parents. With God's guidance, the Preschool at OLG is off to a tremendous start! Just as preschool education gives students a solid foundation for the future, our Preschool has a solid foundation to build upon as we move forward together.



As the enrollment of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School increases, OLG Parish and School leaders celebrate the opportunity for evangelization and make deliberate decisions to protect the small-school feeling that permeates our community and allows our dedicated staff to give individual attention to our students. Parish leadership recognized the importance of maintaining a faith-infused environment and strong academic tradition as demand for Catholic education grew in the Edina community. In response, Our Lady of Grace adopted new school leadership in the summer of 2022 and hired a Head of School, Middle School Principal, Lower School Principal and Preschool Director. This model provides an expert to oversee each specific developmental area for our students. Additionally, OLG has over 120 faculty and staff members across the parish and school to support the individual needs of each student. Unheard of in many Catholic Schools, Our Lady of Grace has an onsite Special Education Department, employs its own Learning Specialists, has a full-time School Counselor, has invested in the best evidence-based reading program (Groves Academy) as well as an in-house coach to oversee its implementation, and has two School Nurses. We are dedicated to maintaining a strong level of support as enrollment increases.

Being a Student at OLG is Quite the Experience!

This year, our students were involved in the arts, Faith Formation, community service, athletics, and many other activities!



Congratulations to...

Our students who received their first sacraments:



First Holy Communion
& First Reconciliation:
79 OLG Students



Confirmation:
49 OLG Students

Our 7th and 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team for winning the first Twin Cities Championship in our school's history for basketball!

And our Chess Club for becoming a 2023 Statewide Team Champion of the School Chess Association—the first time in school history!



Preparing for High School in our New Middle School Building!

OLG is committed to the flourishing of its students. We believe that this is a critical time in their development, so eliminating the transition to a different school and the ability to have leadership experiences in a comfortable, known environment can lead to better academic performance and greater social/emotional development at this time in their lives. Because of this, OLG has invested in its Middle School by adding a new dedicated building for our 7th and 8th grade students, so they can be in an environment that best promotes their academic and personal flourishing.

Our Middle School students build their academic competency, self-advocacy, and confidence so that they are fully prepared for the challenges of high school. With a robust liberal arts curriculum including Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Math, Science, Social Studies, Religion, Spanish, Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Technology, OLG Middle School graduates are able to thrive and continue to develop into the people God has made them to be.



Accreditation

In the late spring of 2023, the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) awarded Our Lady of Grace Catholic School accreditation without reservation. This rigorous accreditation process follows a seven-year cycle, which culminated with a three-day visit by a seven-person accreditation team in late March. During the visit, the team looked for evidence of standards of quality schools by visiting classrooms, interviewing faculty and staff, meeting with members of the School Advisory Committee and the Parent School Organization, and reviewing School data. The team also reviewed parent feedback from the 2022 Comprehensive Parent Survey and looked to ensure that the feedback was used in the writing of our School Strategic Plan, which will guide the work of the School for the next six years. In their final report to the School, they noted the following strengths and opportunities for growth:



Strengths of OLG School:

1. Dedicated and highly educated staff
2. The number and quality of resources to support students (Learning Specialists, Literacy Coach, Campus Minister, School Counselor, Math Instructional Coach, Nursing Staff)
3. Highly functioning community support of the school

Opportunities for Growth:

1. Methods of organizing and documenting as the School grows
2. Care and keeping of large facility with many users
3. Desire to establish culture of virtue and consistent behavior expectations



Our Teachers are professionals dedicated to continual learning in order to provide the best possible education for our students!

This past year, all of our Teachers and many of our School staff members attended a Catholic School Conference hosted by the Catholic School Center of Excellence. This event brought together over 2,000 Catholic School leaders, educators, and staff from schools throughout Minnesota for a day of large and small group sessions with dedicated time for prayer and fellowship.

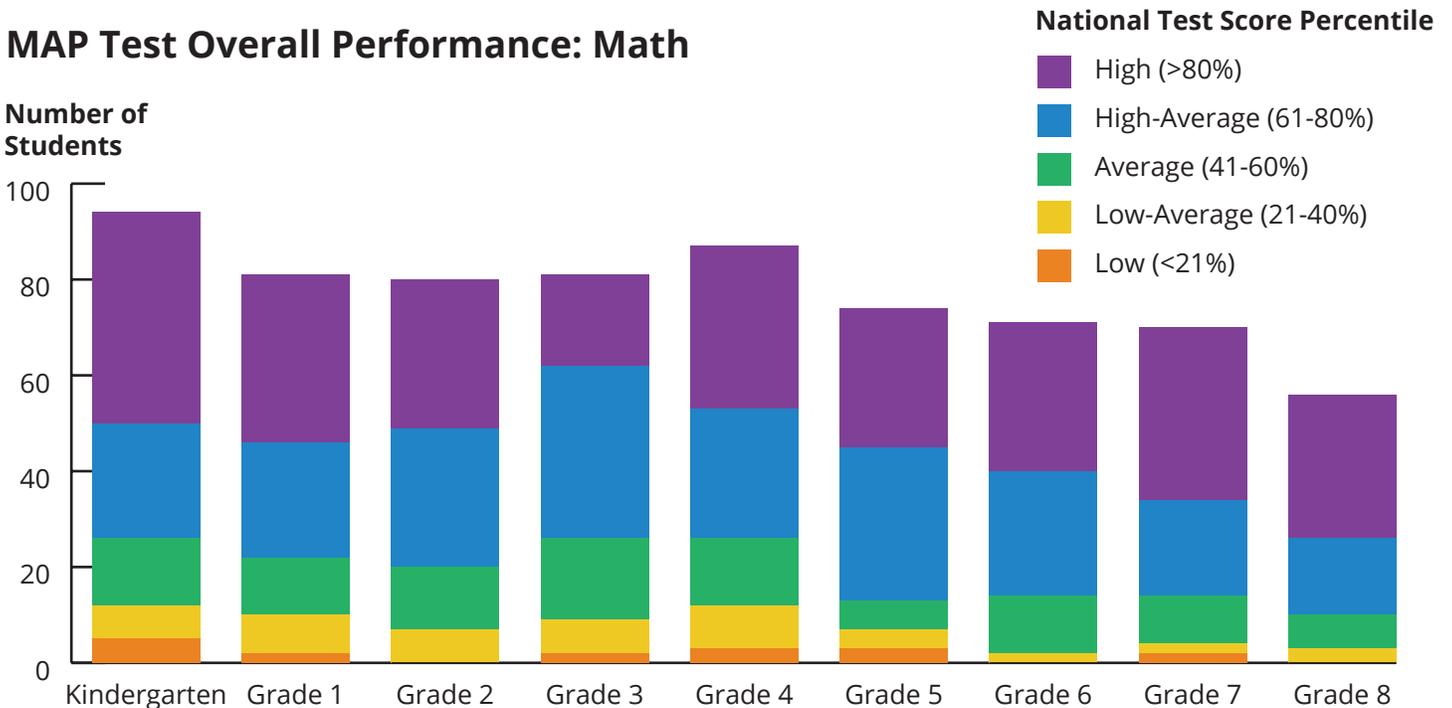
Attendees enjoyed a day of inspiration, motivation and innovation, beginning with Mass led by Archbishop Bernard Hebda. Participants then joined breakout sessions focused on topics like addressing anxiety and depression in students, working with exceptional learners, excellence in middle school, multicultural inclusion, and math and reading teaching methods to facilitate excellence in our schools.



MAP Testing

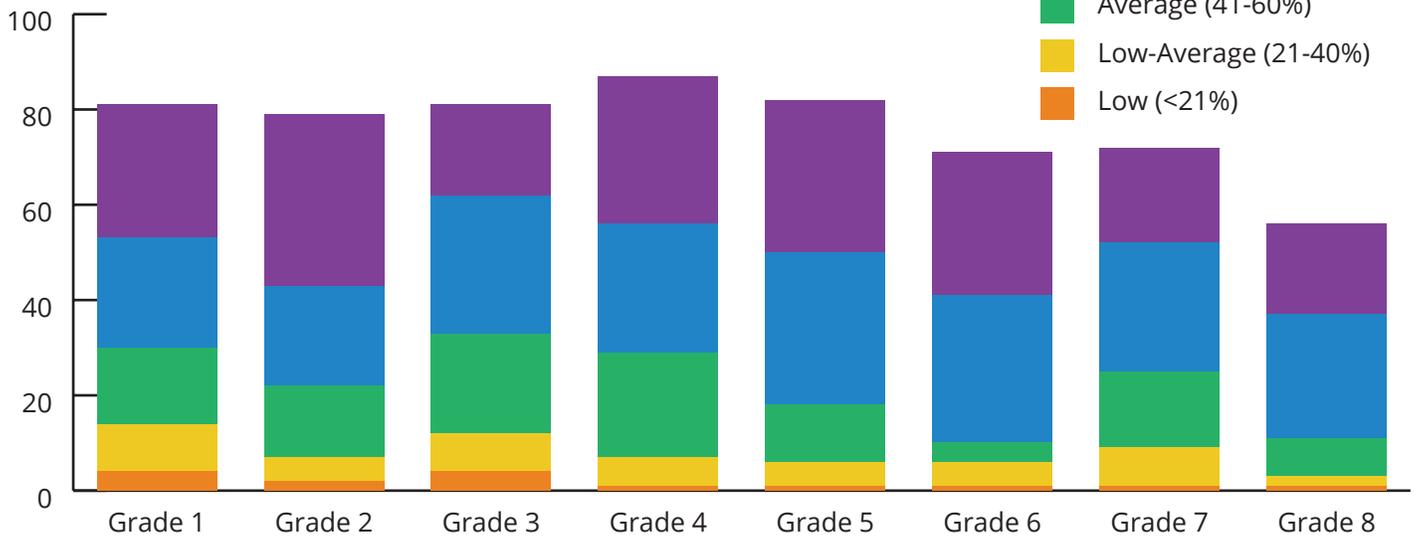
OLG students in grades K-8 take the NWEA MAP Growth test every fall and spring (kindergarten in spring only). MAP tests are student-paced and are individualized; each question a student receives is based on their answer to the previous one. We choose to use MAP tests because we receive a robust amount of data regarding individual student growth and performance as well as School performance compared to national averages. Teachers are able to see what concepts students have mastered and what they are ready to learn to better differentiate instruction in the classroom. Consistently, the vast majority of our students perform well above the national average in math, reading, and language usage. OLG is able to use MAP test data to continue to positively push students to reach their full academic potential.

MAP Test Overall Performance: Math



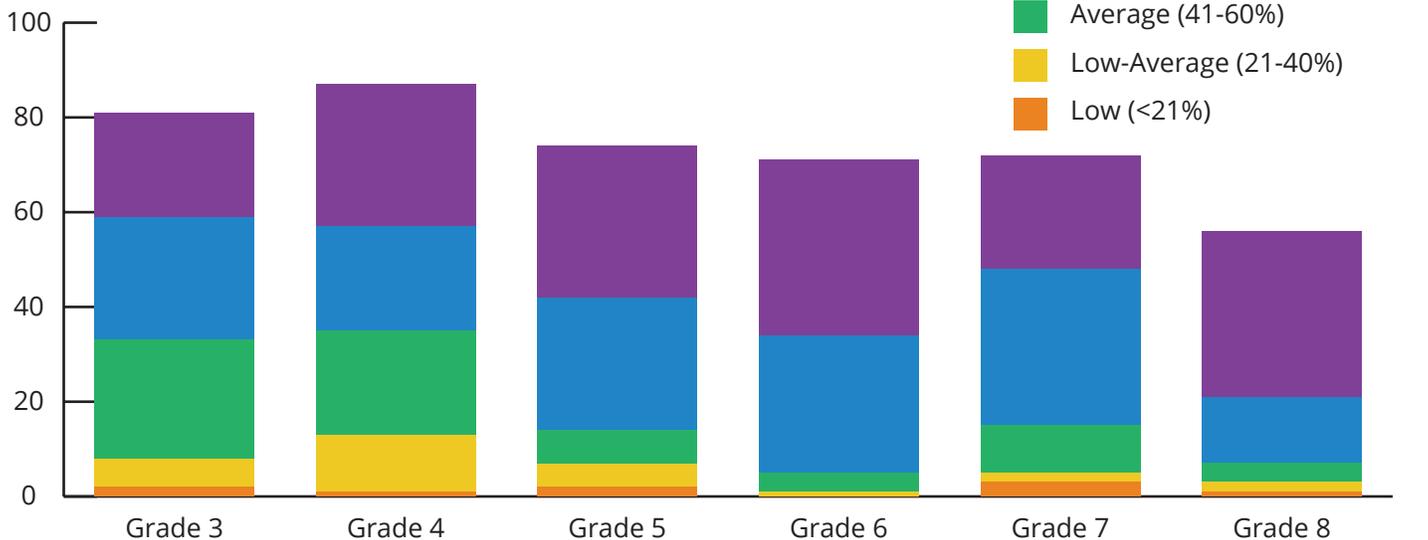
MAP Test Overall Performance: Reading

Number of Students



MAP Test Overall Performance: Language Usage

Number of Students



We are a "Believe and Read" School

As a "Believe and Read" school, we partner with Groves Academy to implement the Groves Literacy Framework, which is a reading curriculum based on the Science of Reading and is rooted in decades of literacy and brain research. We know that students learn best when instruction is direct, sequential, multimodal, and addresses individual strengths and challenges. The Groves approach ensures that our kindergarten through third grade students receive cutting-edge reading instruction ensuring academic success beyond third grade. Part of the Groves approach is collecting and using data to inform instructional decisions. We are so proud of our students, and their growth shows in the data!



A Community of Big Hearts

OLG students remained committed to praising God and serving others this year. Our Catholic School enjoyed weekly Masses, religion classes, faith formation experiences, and morning and afternoon prayer. OLG favorites from this school year included the Prayer Buddies tradition, which pairs students of different grades for liturgies and special events, and the 8th grade service project: Sweatshirts for Textbooks, benefiting students in Ghana. OLG hopes that our students will continue to serve God and others.



Liturgical Ministry:

- Students read at all 33 all-school Masses throughout the year.
- We are also very grateful for our students who served at Mass through music and gift bearing.

Altar Serving:

- 43 OLG students are altar servers.
- 32 OLG students served at all-school Masses (Wednesday all-school Mass, funerals during the school day, and Friday daily Masses).
- An additional 11 students served at weekend Masses.
- They served for 33 all-school Masses, 29 funerals, and 27 Friday daily Masses.

Livestream Team:

- All 72 of our 7th graders participated and learned the equipment.
- The students covered 34 Masses or special events and served 306 hours over the year.



The 2022-23 OLG Middle School Service Club is comprised of 74 students and four parent leaders. This year, they facilitated 49 events and worked over 368 volunteer hours. Some of their accomplishments included:

- 100 sets of Resurrection Eggs for school and Faith Formation students
- 300+ valentines for homeless kids at Sharing & Caring Hands
- 500+ ornaments for the Parish Giving Trees
- 1,300 goody bags for Valentine's Day and Palm Sunday

Leadership Opens Doors—Service is the Key

The **2022-2023 OLG Student Council** is comprised of 13 peer-elected student leaders. They are focused on Catholic Social Teachings, including: Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; and Solidarity.

They initiated several school-wide service projects throughout the year, including:

- Sole Searching Shoe Drive: Collected 538 pairs of shoes for Sharing & Caring Hands.
- Spring Sucker Fundraiser: Raised \$1,800 for our School and student community.

They also delivered enough Thanksgiving baskets to feed over 36 families and served as leaders, ushers, and hosts at OLG's annual Veterans Day Program.



Parent School Organization

This year, the PSO did a tremendous job developing volunteer and monetary resources for OLG School. Through 40 committees, the PSO supported our students, Teachers, administration, and parents through the areas of classroom support, community service, fellowship and families, fundraising, and School support. Some PSO highlights of the 2022-23 school year include:

- Santa's Secret Shop – supports our sister school, St. John Paul II Catholic School in northeast Minneapolis, as well as OLG.
- Marathon – supports OLG School funding for Teacher Assistants and Technology.
- Carnival – supports PSO events throughout the year.
- Read-a-thon – supports the Groves Reading Program for OLG students in grades K-3, which provides additional help to those students who are struggling with their reading.

Thank you for your continued financial support for all of these fundraising events!

Parent Volunteers:

Thank you to the Parent School Organization (PSO), the Men's Club, and everyone who volunteered their time to OLG during this past school year! We appreciate all of you!



The Impact of OLG School

"We are so happy we moved our boys over to OLG. I have no doubt our 8th grader, Sean, is prepared to take on the rigorous challenges of high school."

- **Michelle and Scott Schelp, Parents of OLG Students**

"I could talk for days about how wonderful the Teachers at this School are. They love the kids as their own, work tirelessly all day then prep some more, and want to partner as much as possible with the parents to help their kids thrive."

- **Caitlin Holmlund, Teaching Assistant and Parent of OLG Students**

"Student Mass on Wednesdays provides a special bonding time with my five grandchildren. It is a beautiful testimony to their love and respect for the Mass, for one another as a community, and for their Mimi. Being part of my five grandchildren's activities at OLG has given me great joy, wonderful new memories, and a pride in the faithful, compassionate, and confident young people OLG is nurturing."

- **Mary Freeman, Grandparent of OLG Students**

"I am blessed to be back at OLG! All my children went to school here and it feels like home. It is a joy to work with a staff that is dedicated to excellence in academics, fostering a joy for learning, and instilling the virtues of our faith."

- **Amy Garrity, Preschool Teacher and Parent of OLG School Alumni**

Our Lady of Grace Endowments

If you have been positively impacted by your OLG experience, please prayerfully consider donating to an OLG endowment. Endowment financial contributions increased by 17% this year as compared to last year. We encourage you to prayerfully consider placing OLG in your estate planning and annual giving. Two of the three Our Lady of Grace endowment funds are dedicated to OLG School:

- **Our Lady of Grace School Endowment:** exclusively benefits the mission, programs and operations of Our Lady of Grace School, ensuring that the school remains viable for future generations.

- **Robert T. Cassidy Scholarship Endowment:** Father Robert T. Cassidy served as pastor of Our Lady of Grace from 1985 to 2002. The Robert T. Cassidy endowment helps Our Lady of Grace offer financial aid to families in need to attend Our Lady of Grace School.

If you would like to learn more about endowments or about giving to OLG School, please visit www.olgschool.net/give – thank you for your ongoing support of Our Lady of Grace!

May God Bless the OLG Class of 2023!



Even though OLG's 8th grade graduates are moving on to different schools, they will always be a part of the OLG community. May God bless these graduates abundantly!

OLG cares about you and hopes you will stay in touch. There are social media accounts specifically for alumni on Instagram and Facebook, which are open to all former OLG students, alumni parents, alumni grandparents, and anyone else who has been influenced by an OLG education. Follow the pages by searching "@olgschoolalumni". Alumni, please let OLG know about any exciting life updates to share with the broader community by emailing your updates to marketing@olgschool.net. Please include your graduation year in your email.

The OLG community can't wait to see what each of you will accomplish throughout your lives! OLG is always rooting for you and praying for you!

The theme for the 2023-24 OLG school year will be "Become My Disciples". Get ready to lean into the power of small groups as we learn the basic components of being disciples of Jesus Christ!

Celebrate with us!



Would you like to join the OLG community? We would love to hear from you!

To inquire about joining our Parish, call 952-929-3317.

To inquire about enrolling your child in our School, call 952-929-5463.