

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
The Catholic School in Center Moriches



2 St. John's Place, Center Moriches, NY 11934
On the grounds of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
(631) 878-1033 www.olqany.org

Discover the OLQA Difference!

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Apostles!



Welcome to Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Regional Catholic School (OLQA). Thank you for your interest in the Catholic School in Center Moriches.

Never did either one of us think that our ministries as educators would bring us to be leaders of a Catholic elementary school. Serving as a Catholic School teacher has been one of the greatest joys of both our service.

Why? Because of the opportunity to come to know more and more about what it means to belong to an incredible community of faith, intellect and compassion. Our titles might indicate that we are the “formal” leaders of the school. We assure you that we are the ones led each day by tremendous students, dedicated faculty and committed families who show us what the mission of a Catholic School is all about.

Do you know when our community will become even stronger and better? When you and your family become part of the “family of families” here at OLQA!

Catholic schools build community and through community help young people to see their inherent dignity as children of God. We both have seen lives changed and transformed by this community, including ours!

We promise you we would not have made the commitment or sacrifice we have made if we did not believe in the power of this school community to make a difference. Neither one of us have one regret! When you make the commitment (and the sacrifice) to belong to the Catholic School in Center Moriches, we do not think you will have one either.

Please pray for the ongoing work of our community.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawn Waller
Principal

Reverend John Sureau
Ph.D., LCSW

Executive Pastor

Dawn Waller



John Sureau

The Catholic School in Center Moriches

Catholic schools are not meant to be solely buildings of academics. Rather they are called to be communities of caring, creating spaces for young people to better know God, themselves and their neighbor. Open and encouraging of students of all faiths, Catholic schools instill in young people an awareness of the presence of God, an understanding of teachings of the faith, and a desire to practice and live out that faith each day of their lives. If we are not going to do this, we should not exist.

*Research is clear that the
social capital produced by a
Catholic school community
transforms students
for the rest of their lives.*

Students who successfully complete our academic program: **Early Childhood** (Nursery—2nd Grade), **Intermediate** (Grades 3—5), and **The Mission Middle School Academy** (Grades 6—8) are given the tools needed to excel and be leaders in high school, the local community, in the Church, and beyond. Specific information about our academic programs can be found on our grade level information sheets.

These are unique and challenging times particularly in the work and ministry of education. OLQA's size and community nature allow us to adapt to these times. Since the Spring of 2020, faculty and students make critical and effective use of educational technology to further our mission of learning and formation even remotely. Each teacher provides a strong online presence, through Google Classroom, that allows parents to link to their child's learning experience. This allows us to provide a continuation of learning at home when this may be required.

This booklet is designed to give you a sense of what a powerful community Our Lady Queen of Apostles is. Of course, this is just an overview. After reading this, we hope you will let us show you more about The Catholic School in Center Moriches.



Campus Ministry

Our Lady Queen of Apostles is about taking the gift of the Catholic tradition and sharing it with our young people through prayer, education, and mission. It's the work of Campus Ministry at OLQA, formally established in 2017.



Prayer is the heartbeat of our school day. We begin each day as a school community in prayer; focusing on the liturgical season, the life of a saint, and asking the intercession of our Blessed Mother to guide us as we journey throughout the day. Before lunch, we proclaim the Annunciation through the praying of the Angelus. Our day ends with once again entrusting ourselves to Mary's intercession before we journey home.

Students attend weekly mass and the entire community (of course, you're invited too!) gathers for mass once a month. Different classes take turns carrying out the liturgical ministries for the monthly masses. In addition, we have students serve as altar servers and sacristans. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated during Advent and Lent. We prepare our second graders for First Holy Communion. Students in The Mission lead us in a Living Nativity and the Stations of the Cross.



Education. The Campus Minister at OLQA is the coordinator of theology for grades 4-8. This allows their subject teachers to focus on their core subjects and gives religious instruction the priority of focus it deserves.



Mission. Our faith calls us out of the church and classroom, and into the world. Students in The Mission participate in one-day mission trips and other service experiences. In addition, each grade in the school partners with a church ministry or charitable organization through the Campus Ministry Cooperative. Other school-wide service projects are completed throughout the year like the 1.2K Thanksgiving Can Drive and Christmas Toy Drive.

Academic Excellence

Whether students are in school in person or learning remotely, Our Lady Queen of Apostles challenges your child academically and intellectually, meeting them where they are at and facilitating growth across all disciplines.

Exceptional Faculty. More than their academic credentials and experience – impressive enough in themselves – the faculty and staff at OLQA see their work as more than a job but a vocation. Beginning in the Spring of 2020 teachers held live Google Meet lessons and continued the learning both at home and in the school building. Beyond their work in the classroom, all teachers provide **extra help** either before or after school. Participating in monthly faculty-wide professional development workshops and level meetings, our faculty is always looking for more ways to better serve our students.



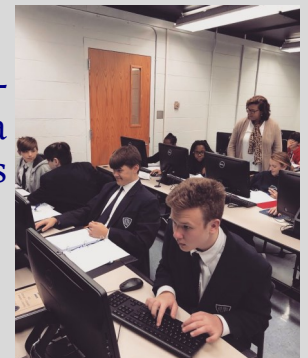
From the Academically Gifted to the Academically Challenged. Our Lady Queen of Apostles offers a wide array of curriculum options from Pre K-3 to 8th grade. As students progress, they are able to complete initial high school courses in Algebra, Living Environment and Spanish putting them a year ahead of many of their public school counterparts. The curriculum goals of Our Lady Queen of Apostles meet and exceed New York State education requirements with receiving accreditation through Cognia.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles offers small class sizes allowing us to meet students' needs in a variety of ways. **Academic Intervention Services** are offered for Math & ELA. Students with special education needs or who may require specific services can have those needs met at OLQA.

Students use **technology** in all aspects of their curriculum through the utilization of STREAM, Google Applications for Education, and a wide variety of online programs. In addition students work on Chromebooks to prepare them for NYS Computer Based Testing. Each classroom is equipped with flat panel touch screen boards or smartboards.

It is essential that students learn a second language. All students at OLQA learn **Spanish** beginning in Pre-K (yes, Pre-K!). This continues in each grade level with more comprehensive course work offered in the middle school years, fulfilling their Spanish I High School requirement.

We collaborate with St. Joseph's College for **Project REACH** where students in The Mission research a topic of their choice and work alongside a mentor working in that field. Students then write a paper on their findings and present their work in an academic symposium.

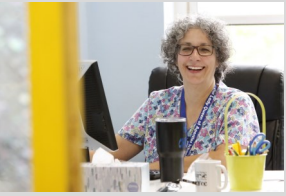


Student Welfare

Some students are in need of additional academic, emotional, or social support. Many of these services are provided on site through our own faculty and staff or through contacts with the local public school district—including those for students with an IEP or 504 plan.

Social Work. The school has a social work team that is available as a resource to faculty, parents, students and families. Through individual encounters, small group work, presentations and presence (both in the school and online), the team seeks to address issues that may not be initially school-related but have a huge impact on a student's growth and development.

Discipline OLQA's discipline policy focuses on giving students the opportunity and responsibility to be dignified leaders within the community through policy based on self control, respect, and relationship.



School Safety. OLQA is a secure school building. Visitors may only enter and exit through one entrance and must be checked in. We work regularly with local security experts, the Suffolk County Police Department, the Center Moriches Fire Department, as well as the Diocese of Rockville Centre to make sure our safety plans meet the needs of our ever-changing world.

We have a full time school nurse to assist with all medical needs. Throughout the pandemic our nurse has been at the forefront of the school's COVID reopening plan and facilitating all the necessary safety precautions. All of these policies can be found on our website.

Supporting and Engaging Parents. Between work and the challenges of family life, we know it's not easy being a parent today. To support parents, OLQA offers before school and after school care programs at a reasonable cost.

Communication is vital. We partner in your child's education through the use of SchoolMessenger, Powerschool, our website, and social media. We encourage parents to be engaged in the "Family of Families". Opportunities for engagement are available through our Family Unity Network and participation in our annual fundraising events

Finances. This, too, is a reality for both you and OLQA. Tuition rates are set by the School Board in January or February of the prior year. Tomorrow's Hope Foundation offers financial assistance to qualifying families. Potential outside sources can possibly provide financial assistance. We hope that finances are never an issue for a student to attend OLQA.



Beyond the Classroom

Attending Our Lady Queen of Apostles is not just about attending a school, it's about making this place your home away from home! OLQA offers a variety of student and athletic activities.

Athletics:

- FAST Athletics program for Kindergarten - Grade 5
- Intermural Sports Programs
- Member of The Catholic Middle School Athletic Association offering Cross Country, Basketball, and Volleyball teams to students in The Mission

Music Program through Jimmy Osborne Music

- All students in Grades 4-8 have the opportunity to take part in either Band or Chorus
- Band Lessons & Choral Rehearsals incorporated into the weekly schedule
- Band Lessons & Instrument Rentals provided by Jimmy Osborne Music
- Students perform in our annual Christmas & Spring Music Concerts

Student Activities:

- OLQA Players (Drama Club)
- Campus Ministry Core Team
- Student Council
- National Junior Honor Society
- Annual Talent Show
- ...and so much more!



Lunch You gotta eat...and at OLQA you do! We have an easy ordering system through an online application. (Of course, you can bring your own lunch too).



OLQA SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow, like, retweet, and share to stay updated on all the wonderful the wonderful things happening at

The Catholic School in Center Moriches!

Instagram & Twitter: @olqany

Facebook: Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional School



COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

The best way to know about OLQA is to visit. Opportunities to shadow (for students from Grades K—7) and tours are encouraged and welcomed.

To learn more, contact us at 631.878.1033, email dwaller@olqany.org, or fill out the contact form on our website—olqany.org.
