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## From the Principal: Welcome back! 9/1/23

1 message

**Peg Augello** <paugello@olvfp.org>  
Reply-To: Peg Augello <paugello@olvfp.org>

Fri, Sep 1, 2023 at 4:20 PM

Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you well and that you were able to enjoy the blessings of summer here on Long Island! For those who are new to the Our Lady of Victory School (OLVS) Family – welcome! If you are continuing with us, welcome back!!

As you read this, you are probably anticipating a happy beginning to the school year! I know that I am!! We are ready, excited and eager to welcome the students to school next week!

Last Tuesday, our School Board hosted “Popsicles on the Playground” as a way to welcome our youngest students...Nursery, Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten. It was a wonderful event and was so nice to see everyone! Very special thank you to Mrs. Deb Doherty and her committee for hosting this special event!

School opens for students in grades 1-8 on Wednesday, September 6. As a reminder, all summer assignments and supplies are due the first day of school. [Click here](#) to see the back to school letters that were emailed earlier this month, as well as additional Back to School details.

Parents are welcome and may come into the school building on the first day. (After that, parents must make an appointment to enter the building.) On the first day, class lists will be posted outside of the classrooms and school staff will be available to help direct everyone to the right place! Students in grades 1-6 will enter through the front doors. Grades 7 and 8, please enter through the schoolyard door (near the playground).

This seems like a good place to add a reminder about our [“Drop and Go” Policy](#). Please review the policy and video. We ask all parents who will be dropping off their children in the morning to follow this policy...for the safety of ALL of our students. Your support and cooperation is appreciated!

We have been busy at school this summer! We strive always to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our families and faculty. Last summer, the security camera system was enhanced with additional cameras. This summer two blue strobe lights were placed on the outside of the building. One is in the front of the building and the other in the back. You will notice the signs that state that if the light is flashing, the emergency plan protocol has been implemented. (Please God, we will never have to use them.) The plans to “harden” the entrance at the high stoop with upgraded intercom systems and an additional locking door has also begun. We are waiting for the doors to be delivered and installed.

Last summer the student restrooms were refreshed. This summer the cafeteria restrooms and the adult restrooms near the Faith Formation Office and the kitchen have been updated and refreshed! Work began on the last day of school in June; the workers finished today, Friday, September 1. (Whew!) Everything looks GREAT!!

The building has been cleaned and we are ready to greet everyone on Wednesday morning!

The teachers and I had our back-to-school faculty meeting yesterday. We began our day by attending the 8:30 Parish Mass. Fr. Tom welcomed the faculty and staff. In his homily he spoke about our ministry of teaching and our commitment to educate the whole child...academically, socially and most importantly spiritually.

Part of our meeting was dedicated to the “business” of opening school. Another part was dedicated to social emotional learning of our students and the identification and implementation of strategies to support our children, particularly in this time, post COVID. This will be one of our faculty’s ongoing professional development courses this year.

This is the part of the email where I usually tell you that one of the things that can keep principals up at night is making sure their school has great teachers. (There were a few other things this summer too!!) We always seek teachers who are dedicated to their craft, and have a love for learning that is transferred to their students. Yes, great teachers make a school great and OLV has been blessed with many great teachers. We've had some additional changes over the summer. Miss Conboy was appointed as an Assistant Principal at St. Patrick's School in Smithtown. Miss O'Hara accepted a position in a public school. We thank them all for their dedication to our students and families and wish them well on the next part of their journey.

This year we will welcome some new teachers to our OLV family. Here is a quick introduction to our new faculty members:

Elizabeth David is a graduate of Hofstra University and Mount St. Mary College. She has a background in Journalism-Media Studies and is eager to share her knowledge with our 5th and 6th grade ELA classes. Miss David will serve as a 6th grade homeroom and Religion teacher.

Gina M Casso is a graduate of Turo University and St. John's University. Her passion is social studies and history and she is thrilled to be able to share this with our 5th and 6th graders as their social Studies teacher this year. Mrs. Casso will have a 5th grade homeroom class and will be their Religion teacher.

Alexandra Kislowski is a graduate of Molloy University. She loves math and is eager to share her passion for it with our fourth graders. Miss Kislowski will serve as our 4th grade math and science teacher. She will also teach religion to her homeroom.

Keshia Schaefer is a graduate of State University of NY at Cortland with a Masters Degree in literacy. She is eager to meet our 4th graders! She will teach ELA and Social Studies to our 4th graders and religion to her homeroom.

Welcome to all of you! Together with our veteran teachers, we have the finest group of teachers and staff, whose dedication and commitment to Catholic education will help ensure another wonderful year of school!

**Meet the Teacher:** Nursery, Pre-K and Kindergarten sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, or to send a representative. However, I understand that this year some parents may not be able to join us as work schedules preclude their attendance. Therefore, the orientation sessions will be recorded and the links will be sent to parents later in the day.

Meet the Teacher for grades 7 and 8 will take place on Thursday, September 7th (7pm for grade 7, and 8pm for grade 8); for grades 1-6, the meeting will take place on Thursday, September 14th at 7pm.

**Before and After School Program:** Registration will be online. The ASP (After School Program) hours will continue to operate on their regular schedules. The program will close at 6:00PM for students who attend. Please note that the program ends at 4:30PM for N and PK students. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register for the program. The Before and After School Programs will open on Monday September 11. Please contact Miss Shrinivas, our Assistant Principal for any additional information on these programs.

**Lunch Program:** Students will eat in the cafeteria. Please note that the kitchen will open on Friday, September 8. Lunch can be ordered from the kitchen. If you are choosing to purchase lunch for your child, it must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Please print/complete the monthly lunch menu to place the order - each month's menu can be found on the school website under "Quick Links." Please [click here](#) for this month's lunch calendar and the payment page.

Students may also choose to bring their own lunch each day. Please note: lunches and snacks should be NUT FREE as we have many children who have allergies. Also note that fast food is not permitted.

And finally, a reminder that the 27th Annual OLV School Classic Fundraiser is taking place this year at the Douglaston Golf Club on Friday, September 29th! The spirit of friendship and support of OLV School will continue this year. Please visit our 2023 Classic Fundraiser page by [clicking here](#), to get all the details about the day and to register online to golf, attend the dinner and/or sponsor the event. Everyone is invited to join us for this event (and please invite friends and family!). Volunteers are still needed for this event!

As you know, families with students in grades K-8 are required to register to Volunteer for HSA events, (those with children in Nursery and Pre-K are encouraged.) Please [click here](#) to sign up to volunteer - and please consider selecting the Classic Fundraiser as one of your events!

In case you missed it...the last issue of the [Victory Voice](#) was "published" at the end of last school year. It was posted on our website. Thank you to Mrs. Bonagura and Mrs. Boyle, who put it all together and to all who submitted articles for our publication. Enjoy it!

**I cannot wait to welcome everyone to the new school year! Have a good weekend! See you on Wednesday!**

**P.S. Please check the website at [www.olvfp.org](http://www.olvfp.org) for the most up-to-date information regarding school events and activities.**

**God Bless,  
Peg Augello  
Principal**

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