

A Year in Review

Our Lady of Consolation School
2025-2026

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Our Lady of Consolation

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

4865 11 Mile Rd NE Rockford, MI 49341

Congratulations to Mrs. Wendy Rigley, the recipient of the 2026 OLC Board of Directors Service Award!

Wendy has been a dedicated member of the OLC faculty for the past six years, where she teaches middle school Social Studies. She brings a special passion to U.S. History—particularly the Civil War—making the subject come alive for her students through engaging lessons and creative projects.

When asked which historical figure she would most like to share a meal with, Wendy chose Jesus. She would love the opportunity to explore the mysteries of the Bible and learn more about His childhood. As she often notes, “Middle schoolers are always wondering what Jesus was like as a teenager.”

One nomination beautifully captured Wendy’s impact:

“Teaching middle school is no small feat, yet Wendy has an incredible way of connecting with, encouraging, and engaging every student. Her creative projects make learning fun, and her knowledge is truly impressive. She is a kind and gentle soul, and the kids deeply respect her. She communicates exceptionally well—leaving conferences feeling informed, heard, and confident that your child is genuinely seen and supported.”

Wendy’s commitment to her students, her passion for teaching, and her ability to foster meaningful connections make her truly deserving of this honor.

Thank you Mrs. Rigley!



A Year of Sacraments: Faith in Action at OLC

Every year at OLC is both exciting and meaningful, but for our second and eighth graders, it is especially significant. These students celebrate important milestones in their faith journey through the sacraments, making these years both memorable and transformative.

For our second graders, much of the year is devoted to preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation in December and First Holy Eucharist in May. Through classroom instruction and time spent in the Atrium, students explore Scripture and deepen their understanding of these sacred moments. The Atrium offers a unique, hands-on environment where children can encounter their faith in a meaningful way. As they prepare for the Eucharist, students engage with materials that help them better understand the Mass and its many parts, bringing the liturgy to life.

It is a full and joyful year. In addition to their studies, second graders participate in a parish-wide retreat experience and continue the cherished tradition of creating altar boxes, a practice started by Sr. Angela. This year, students also visited the Franciscan Life Process Center for a special First Communion retreat, where they had the unique opportunity to make bread alongside the sisters—an experience that beautifully connects to the Eucharist.

Mrs. Schuler, who has been preparing second graders for the sacraments for fourteen years, shares, “Preparing the students for the sacraments is my greatest joy as a Catholic educator. I am so blessed to watch them grow in their faith—growing closer to God and understanding the profound truths of the Catholic Church. There is no greater joy than seeing them open their hearts to God and experience His unconditional love.”



*Saint Andrews Cathedral
March 24, 2026*



In eighth grade, students continue their sacramental journey as they prepare for Confirmation. The curriculum blends academic learning—focused on the sacraments of initiation, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Fruits of the Spirit—with intentional spiritual formation.

Mrs. Novak, now in her sixth year teaching Confirmation, finds the spiritual growth of her students most rewarding.

“My favorite part is the spiritual development because it goes beyond head knowledge and into the heart. We learn about the mission of the Church—the salvation of souls—and challenge ourselves to consider how we will more fully participate in that mission after Confirmation.”

Eighth graders reflect deeply on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they will live them out in their daily lives. They examine their habits, consider how those habits shape their character, and commit to practicing virtues that will guide them moving forward.



The Confirmation program, Chosen by Ascension Press, supports this journey. In addition to classroom learning, students meet regularly with their sponsors, participate in a parish-led retreat, complete service hours, and research a saint for their Confirmation name. Throughout the process, they are encouraged to engage in meaningful conversations with their sponsors, strengthening both their faith and their relationships.

These sacramental years are a powerful reminder that faith is not only learned—it is lived, celebrated, and carried forward for a lifetime.

Praying the Rosary

Praying the rosary is nothing new for students at OLC—but this year, they’ve been given a beautiful new way to experience it together.

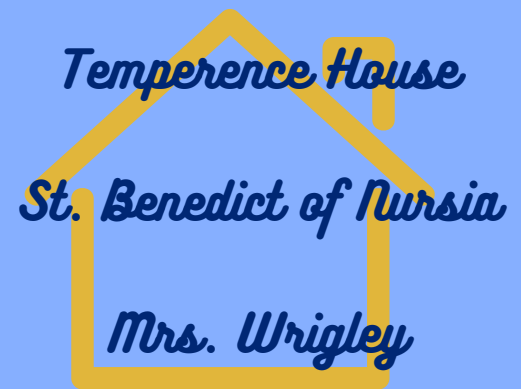
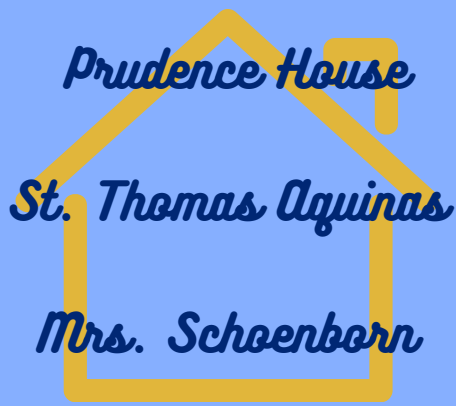
Thanks to the craftsmanship and generosity of OLC parishioner Neil Beuhler, students now have a life-size rosary to use in prayer. At the request of Miss Giroux, Neil graciously accepted the challenge and quickly got to work. After purchasing dozens of four-inch ornaments—clearing out supplies from two Hobby Lobby stores—he began assembling the 25-foot rosary at his home.

The rosary took Neil a couple weeks to make. “I double- and triple-checked the number of beads for each decade to make sure everything was just right.”

The cross at the beginning of the rosary holds special meaning as well. It was crafted from an oak tree on Fr. Dom’s family farm. The tree, affectionately nicknamed “The Trinity” because of its three large branches, had recently died and was milled for various projects—making it a fitting and meaningful choice for this sacred piece.

"Miss Francis-Bohr kicked off the year using balloons with the 4th grade to help lead the school in praying the rosary together. I took an idea to Mr. Buehler about making something more permanent, but equally as visible and interactive for all-school rosaries. We shared ideas and pictures and Neil got to work! Ultimately he created a beautiful one-of-a-kind rosary for the OLC community that Fr. Dominic has blessed for us. We have been able to pray with it a number of times this year, giving students a chance to take turns leading the various parts of the rosary!. I look forward to many future all-school rosaries with this special sacramental." -Abby Giroux





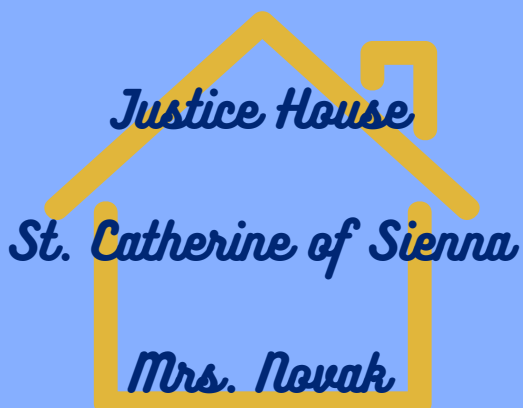
Middle School House System

The Middle School House System is now in its fourth year and continues to be a meaningful part of student life. At the beginning of each school year, the sixth grade students are sorted into the four existing houses. To ensure the best fit, students complete a virtues inventory that helps identify the house that aligns most closely with their strengths and character. Once assigned, students remain in the same house throughout their three years in middle school.

The head of each house, our middle school staff, also completed the virtues inventory. A patron saint with the same virtuous qualities was chosen for each house.

The house system is designed to build community while promoting accountability and positive behavior. Throughout the year, students earn points for their house by demonstrating respect, responsibility, and safe behavior. Points may also be deducted for missing assignments, office discipline referrals (ODRs), or actions that do not reflect these core values. Houses compete for the coveted House Cup, awarded to the team with the most points at the end of the year.

In addition to daily point opportunities, students participate in quarterly house games that foster teamwork and school spirit. Monthly celebrations also recognize student efforts and house achievements, helping to create a fun, engaging, and supportive environment for all.





OLC Band

This year 32 students in grades 5-8 are participating in band. Eleven in Beginner Band and twenty-one in Advanced Band.

Band is a “zero” hour class which means students come before school 2-3 days a week on an alternating schedule. Both bands are under the direction of Mr. Bailey Budnik who is in his sixth year at OLC.

Our band traveled to Union High School in March for the MSBOA District X Band and Orchestra Festival. This was only the second time our band participated in this event. The band scored a II overall (I being the best). They also scored a I in sightreading. Mr Budnick was super proud of the huge improvement from last year and he thought the group sounded great!

A few weeks later the band attended Bandtastic at Catholic Centra; High School with 275+ students representing seven Catholic schools from the Grand Rapids area including Catholic Central High School. This is a great opportunity for our bands to play with larger groups. The theme this year was “Out of This World” and it was cool to see.

Fourth Grade Songfest

Fourth grade students recently participated in the 30th Annual Fourth Grade Songfest at West Catholic High School. More than 400 students from across the Diocese of Grand Rapids came together for this joyful celebration of music and community.

In preparation for the event, students spent

time learning the songs and connecting with their peers by writing pen pal letters to new friends. The experience was both fun and meaningful, giving students the opportunity to build friendships while sharing their talents with family and freinds.

OLC Musical

This year, the OLC Drama Department brought the stage to life with Beauty and the Beast Jr. Twenty-five students in grades 5–8 auditioned in December, eager to earn their roles in this Disney classic.

Under the direction of Nia Merriweather, alongside Musical Director Mary Harkema, rehearsals began in January. The cast met twice a week for two-hour sessions, dedicating themselves to learning lines, mastering songs, and perfecting choreography. “The kids did a great job this year and it is my joy getting to know them and watching them grow”.
siad Nia.

This marked Nia’s third year directing the annual production. In previous years, the group performed Shrek Jr. and Junie B. Jones, continuing a growing tradition of excellence and enthusiasm in the OLC Drama program.



Bandtastic
Celebrating
The Arts
Beauty and the Beast



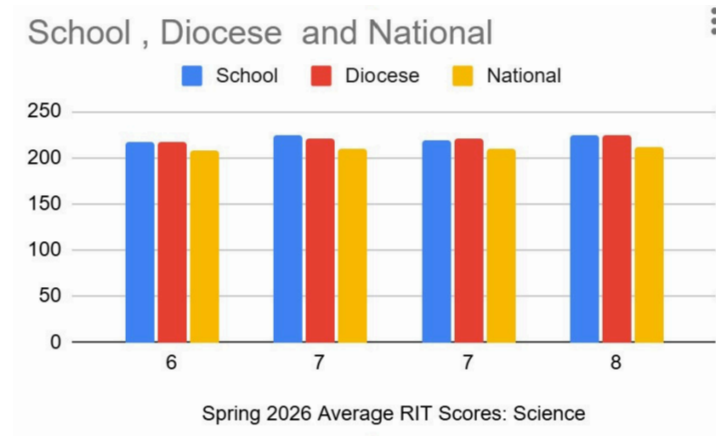
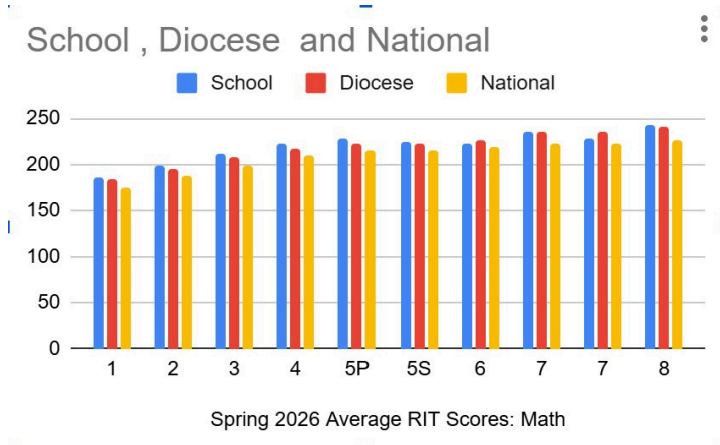
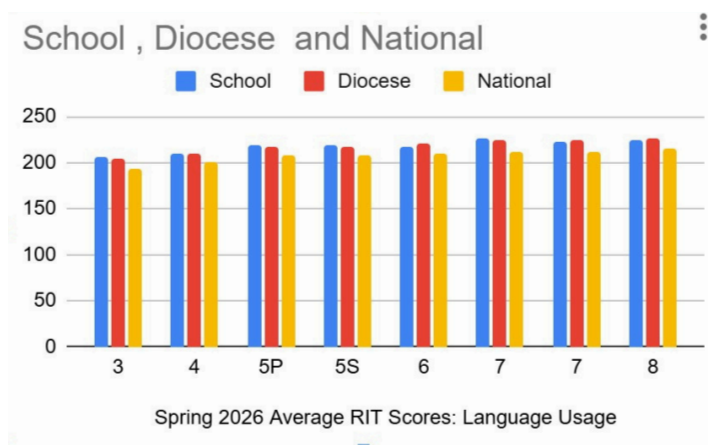
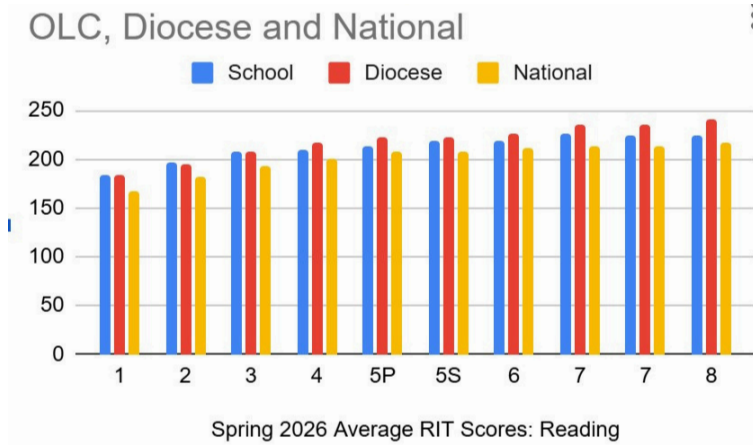
Fourth Grade
Songfest

NWEA MAP Testing



Students in grades 1-8 recently completed Spring MAP testing. **NWEA MAP Growth** is a personalized, computer-adaptive test used by schools to measure student academic achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage, and science. By adjusting question difficulty to each student's level, it helps educators tailor instruction, track progress over time (K-12), identify skill gaps, and compare performance to national norms

Rit scores below are compared to diocesan and national scores.



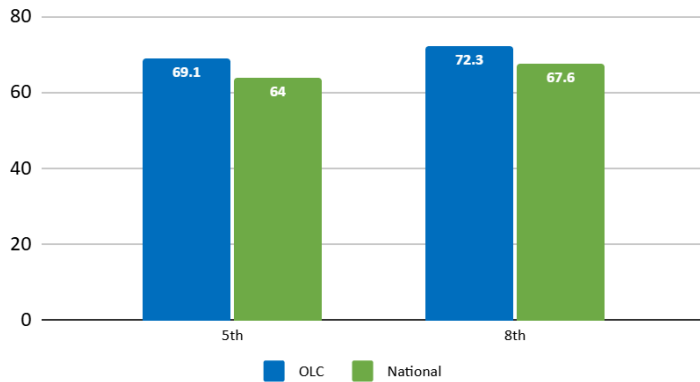
OLC students consistently outperform national averages at every grade level tested. From first through eighth grade, our students score well above national norms, demonstrating strong reading achievement across the school.



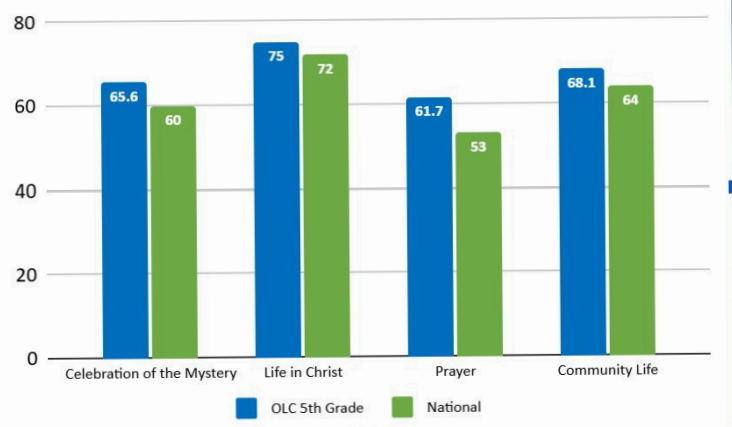
The **ACRE** (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) is a nationally recognized assessment created by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) to evaluate students' knowledge of the Catholic faith as well as their personal faith experiences and spiritual development.

The assessment is given in the spring to students in 5th and 8th grade. This assessment allows schools to identify strengths of their programs and any areas that need more attention.

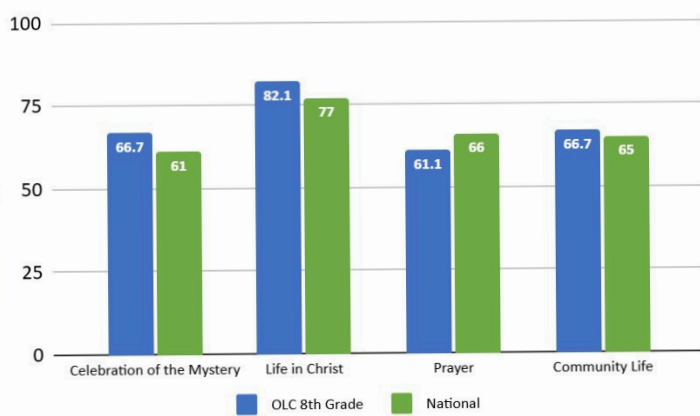
NCEA IFG: ACRE - 2025 Avg. Scores for Faith Knowledge



Proficiency in Faith Knowledge-5th Grade



Proficiency in Faith Knowledge-8th Grade





OLC Athletics

Athletics have long been an important part of student life at Our Lady of Consolation School. While students grow academically and spiritually in the classroom, they also grow through teamwork, competition, discipline, and sportsmanship on the court and field. OLC Athletics help students develop confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships while representing their school with pride.

OLC is proud to be a member of the Grand Rapids Area Catholic Elementary Athletic Council, better known as the GRACEAC League. Through the league, students have the opportunity to compete against other Catholic schools in a wide range of sports throughout the school year. From volleyball and basketball to cross country, track, and more, OLC students are encouraged to use their God-given talents while learning the value of teamwork, dedication, and perseverance.

The success of the athletic program would not be possible without the support of the OLC Parents Association. Their dedication and generosity help provide opportunities for students to participate, compete, and grow through athletics. From organizing events and fundraising efforts to supporting teams throughout the year, the Parents Association plays a vital role in strengthening the athletic program.

OLC Athletics also relies heavily on the generosity of parent volunteers who step forward to coach teams each season. These coaches dedicate countless hours to helping students improve their skills while creating positive and faith-filled experiences for every athlete. Their willingness to share their time and talents helps make OLC Athletics a special part of the school community.

Whether competing for a championship, learning a new skill, or simply being part of a team, OLC student-athletes are building memories and lessons that will last a lifetime. Athletics continue to be an important part of the OLC experience, helping students grow in mind, body, and spirit.



Alumni Highlight

It's amazing how quickly time passes. Just four short years ago, Aidan Weller was an eighth grader at OLC, looking forward to cherished traditions like Candle Mass, graduation, and the class trip to Cedar Point. Today, he is counting down the final days of his senior year at Cedar Springs High School, with prom, graduation, and college on the horizon.

Aidan has enjoyed a successful four years at Cedar Springs, excelling both in the classroom and on the track. His favorite classes were AP European History and AP World History, where engaging teachers brought the material to life through storytelling while also challenging and supporting their students.

Aidan is a four-time varsity athlete in both cross country and track. He qualified for the state meet in cross country during both his junior and senior years and earned All-Conference honors three consecutive years. He currently holds the ninth-fastest time in school history with a 15:57 and recorded the fastest 3200-meter time by a junior in 13 years with a time of 9:37.

This fall, Aidan will attend Central Michigan University, where he plans to compete in both cross country and track. He has not yet declared a major.

Aidan also carries many fond memories of his time at OLC. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Lemmen, and his favorite tradition was Candle Mass. Reflecting on his experience, Aidan shared, "OLC prepared me for high school by not only creating a work ethic to get everything done on time and done well, but also by showing me how to treat people better in my day-to-day life. You can't ask for more than that."

We wish Aidan all the best as he begins this exciting new chapter—Fire Up Chips!



Called to Serve

Service is a core value at Our Lady of Consolation School. Each year students and staff participate in Signature Service Projects to give back to the community. This year each grade gave of their time and talent to serve others in need.

Kindergarten - In December, 23 students in Kindergarten made cards for patients in the NICU at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

First Grade - In September, 20 first grade students made flower bouquets and cards for Chef Jenna to deliver with her food hugs. They plan to make more this spring.

Second Grade - Second graders spread holiday joy making cards and pictures for the residents at Bishop Hills.

Third Grade - In May the third graders went to Kids Food Basket in Grand Rapids to help with meal prep.

Fourth Grade - In February, 22 fourth graders worked together to make 5 tie blankets for children at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

Fifth Grade - During the year, fifth graders are good stewards of their time helping on the farm at the Franciscan Life Process Center. They help with weeding, gardening, spreading wood chips and harvesting.



Sixth Grade - Sixth grade students spent time with the residents at Bishop Hills taking time to give back to those who share in their faith, but may not engage with the community regularly. This is a great opportunity for our kids to be uncomfortable working with people they do not know. It is also a reminder that those who have come before us all have a story to tell that we can learn from, and implement it into our Catholic living.

Seventh Grade - Our Seventh graders collected items for the Diocesan Prison and Jail Ministries to help men and women released from the prison system to help them reacclimate themselves to society.

Eighth Grade - 8th grade (18 students) collected baby items for the Layette ministry. We collected items all during Advent 2025. We also made baby blankets to add to the donations. The OLC Layette Ministry provides new moms with a basket of items to help welcome their new baby.

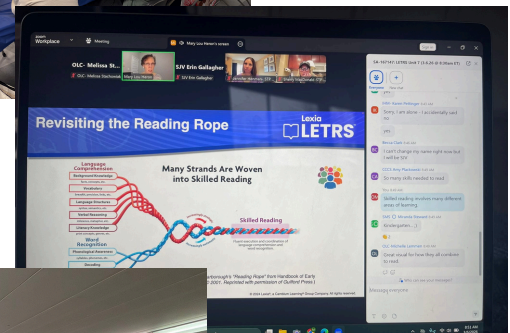


Ever wonder what our teachers do on school in-service days?

This year, the OLC faculty participated in a variety of professional development opportunities designed to strengthen instruction and support student success. Miss Giroux led a collaborative session on executive functioning for our upper-grade teachers, joined by educators from Assumption. The upper-grade staff also partnered with teachers from All Saints Academy for a presentation by Jason Kennedy on designing meaningful learning experiences. Meanwhile, our lower-grade teachers continued their second year of professional development in LERTS, deepening their knowledge and skills to better support student learning and growth.

In Catholic schools, professional development also includes opportunities for spiritual growth and faith formation. OLC teachers work toward Catechist Certification by completing ongoing formation hours that strengthen their understanding of the Catholic faith and their vocation as Catholic educators. This year, the faculty participated in a staff retreat led by Fr. Dominic, providing time for prayer, reflection, and renewal. Staff members also took part in a service project by painting bowls for the Soups On event, combining creativity, fellowship, and outreach to support members of the broader community.

At OLC, we are committed to forming both the minds and hearts of our students. By investing in the professional, spiritual, and personal growth of our teachers, we ensure that they are well-equipped to provide an exceptional Catholic education rooted in faith, excellence, and service.



Congratulations to the OLC CLASS of 2026!



Congratulations to the OLC Class of 2022 graduating from high school this year!

SAVE THE DATES



COUGAR CLASSIC
Sept 19, 2026



PRAY LIKE A CHAMPION
Oct 20, 2026



OLC DINNER AND AUCTION
Feb 6, 2027

2026-2027

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE

ENROLL NOW



CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!



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