

August 8, 2011

Dear Parents,

Teachers and staff officially opened our school year this morning with a retreat, followed by a brief meeting. We are excited to welcome 52 new families, 62 new students, and 3 new teachers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up – We are adopting a new procedure for drop-off and pick-up. Safety for our students is our prime concern at all times. The parking lot on Miller Road was getting extremely congested and dangerous last year. By dividing car riders between the front and the back of the property, traffic should be eased and conditions should be safer. I expect that we will still have all students in their cars within a 15-20 minute period at dismissal, just as before, but we ask your patience as we iron out the kinks in the beginning. An email was sent out this past Friday; please see school website for detailed sketches. <http://olphaz.com/school/>

In the morning you can park and walk your child into the office. No drive by drop-offs or pick-ups will be allowed in the front parking lot; it is too dangerous. Drop-off will enter off of Main Street by the Parish Life Center and come around past the volleyball court, exiting out on Second Street.

At dismissal you have the option to park in the Miller Road parking lot, get out of your car, and meet your child on the sidewalk in front of the office. If you have an afterschool appointment you might exercise this option, at least for the first few weeks. Otherwise, car rider pick-up will follow the morning drop-off procedure. Remember, school hours are 8:00am – 3:00pm.

Welcome Coffee – Please join us at 8:00am for coffee and camaraderie on Wednesday morning in Maguire Hall. Thanks to The Booster Club for organizing this gathering.

Early Dismissal – This year our early dismissal days will end at 1 o'clock. Since the children will not be having lunch, it is strongly suggested that you send a substantial snack with your child on half days.

Staff News – I am excited to have a new Assistant Principal; Mrs. Tara Kassi has been at OLPH for twelve years. She brings a wealth of knowledge in all curriculum areas. We also welcome Mrs. Maura Kireopoulos as our new 8B homeroom teacher, Deacon Herve Lemire as our new K-8 Spanish teacher, and Kathy Johnson as an additional Resource teacher.

Birthdays – Most of you are aware of the Wellness Policy and its implication that sweet treats are not an option as a birthday treat. In an effort to single out the day and make it extra special for the student, your child can come to school in appropriate out-of-uniform attire on his/her birthday. Please be sure to follow dress-down guidelines in your handbook.

Student Directory – Our student directory is an invaluable resource that is distributed to all families. Please consider advertising your business in our annual directory. Deadline for ad submission is August 26th. Contact Angela Braun for further information. [abraun@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:abraun@diocesephoenix.org)

Please know the gratitude that I feel for all of our parents who have chosen a Catholic education for their children. Thank you for entrusting your sons and daughters to our care.

Blessings,

*Donna Laura*  
Principal