

# The Principal's Corner

Notes and Updates from Principal Maureen Trenary



## Our Mission: Celebrating the Sacraments



These last few weeks have been filled with joy, excitement and the grace of God as we have had several special celebrations of the sacraments for many of our OLG students!

During the Easter Vigil on April 15th, two OLG School students were Baptized, received their First Holy Communion and were confirmed.

Congratulations to 2nd grader Emma Zucchi and 8th grader Owen Hoerner on joining the Catholic Church!



Owen and Emma after receiving their sacraments

On Thursday, April 20th, our 8th grade class celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a first in the history of our school! 50 students from OLG School and Parish

were Confirmed by Archbishop Harry Flynn at the Cathedral! These students have participated in Confirmation classes and discipleship groups led by volunteer members of the community during the school day this year.

This past weekend, 65 second grade students from OLG School were a part of the 117 students from Our Lady of Grace who celebrated their First Communion! Six of these students were also Confirmed and joined the Catholic Church. Congrats to Vincent Baldwin, Olivia Bunkers, Tessa Erickson, Violet Grendahl, Anna Larson, Charlie Swanson and each of our second grade students.

We are blessed to be in a school and parish where our mission is to make Jesus Christ Known and Loved and our children and families can share their faith and we can witness our students both coming into the church and choosing to continue their journey as men and women of Christ.



OLG 8th graders at their Confirmation

## Good Friday Celebration



7th graders leading Stations

We were truly blessed to be in school on Good Friday. I heard from many of our teachers and students how this Good Friday was incredibly meaningful to them and their students. Our teachers who visited the Holy Land had the opportunity to share their experiences with our students.

Several parents, grandparents and

parishioners joined our students when their grade level prayed their way through our outdoor Stations of the Cross. Our students carried their little olive wood crosses (blessed by water from the Jordan River). Since we will not have a Good Friday school experience next year because our spring break is during Holy Week, we are planning to offer our students a day of prayer and reflection at another time similar to our Good Friday experience.



An 8th grade group praying the Stations



Our 2nd graders and 8th grade Joseph and Mary at May Crowning

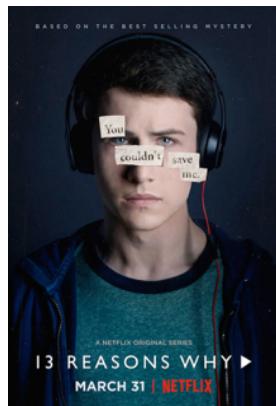
## Design for Learning Update

Our designer completed her third meeting with each of our teachers to share final designs and color scheme. Careful consideration has been given to ensure that we have a coordinated look throughout our school as well as within JPII. OLG and JPII are very excited to have classroom arrangements that meet the academic and physical needs of our students. We are optimistic in meeting our end of May order deadline with the expectation of an August 1-11<sup>th</sup> delivery and installation date. We will need to remove our current desks and furniture. If anyone has connections to someone or an organization that may have need or be able to remove the furniture, please contact me.



## “13 Reasons Why”

You may have heard of the latest Netflix phenomenon “13 Reasons Why.” Teenagers across the country, including at Our Lady of Grace, are binge watching and talking about this show released just over a month ago. This show is the story of Hannah Baker’s death by suicide told through the 13 tapes she leaves for those she holds accountable for her choice. In this day of handheld digital technology, children may easily be watching this series or others without the knowledge of their loved ones. While this show may help raise important conversations regarding mental illness, suicide, bullying and assault, and to get viewers talking about solutions to suicidal thoughts, it also leaves a lot of unanswered questions and provoking thoughts to a teenager who may be watching the show without an adult to help them process these issues. We encourage all parents to familiarize themselves with this show and talk about it with their child to see what they may have heard or seen regarding “13 Reasons Why.” Here is a [link](#) to an article by the Catholic News Agency and a [link](#) to a Star Tribune article about the show. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school administration, OLG School Psychologist [Dr. Kahn](#) or OLG School Counselor [Victoria Stein](#).



## Standards-Based Grading

As we move toward standards-based grading in grades K-7 for the 2017-18 school year, we are grateful for all of the input from our parent and student surveys. Survey results are currently being compiled into a report, which will be shared with the school community in the coming weeks. Your many comments helped give us direction on how to make adjustments in our reporting system and improvements regarding communication to all parents

and students. More details on changes will be included with the survey summaries. The administration, School Advisory Council, teachers and OLG Education Committee are committed to continued conversation and working together in implementing a successful standards-based grading system at OLG.

## OLG Enrollment Report for 2017-2018

Looking ahead to next year, our enrollment numbers are strong and continuing to grow! Additionally, there is a very even distribution of students within the grade levels. Total current enrollment is 666 with the following breakdown by levels:

K-2 - 219 students  
3-5 - 226 students  
6-8 - 221 students

## Congrats!

Congrats to Assistant Principal Rikki Mortl on completing her Educational Leadership and Principal Licensure program through Viterbo University this week! We are proud of her and the many staff who seek continuing education!

## Looking Ahead

**Friday, June 2: Last Day of School** (Edina is ending their school year on Thursday, June 1st due to construction, but we will keep our last day as June 2nd)

**Saturday, February 17th: 8th Grade Confirmation - President's Day Weekend**

Current 7th grade families, please mark your calendars NOW for Confirmation for your 8th grader.