

Our Lady Queen of Peace School
Parent Letter
August 16, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17th- K-8 1st day of school- 12:00 dismissal
August 18th- 1st full day
August 22- PreK 4 first day
August 23- PreK 3 first day
August 25- El Indio Mexican Restaurant "Dine To Donate" Day
August 28- School Pictures
September 6- Papa Johns' Pizza Day

I hope everyone enjoyed the Open House and Back to School Bash! It was so good to see everyone. We look forward to seeing Kindergarten - 7th grade tomorrow for our first day of school. Tomorrow is a noon dismissal and Friday will be our first full day. The 2023-2024 school year is going to be fantastic!!

CALENDAR CHANGES

Friday, September 22nd will be a noon dismissal day because of Bethalto's Homecoming Parade.

Friday, April 12th will be a no school day. Teachers will be attending a retreat in Springfield.

Confirmation for our 3rd graders has been moved to August 17, 2024.

<https://www.olqpbethalto.org/parent-resources/calendar.cfm>

DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURE

Staff will be at the Preschool door, the door in the primary wing, and at the Enrichment Center/gym entrance to let students in each morning. Pull into the parking lot off of Butcher Street and then proceed to either the primary wing door or Enrichment Center/gym door. If you need to get out of the car, please park away from the doors so we can keep traffic moving. If you have a child in preschool and an older sibling, they may all enter through the preschool door.

LUNCH 8/17 & 8/18

Tomorrow we have a noon dismissal for the first day of school. If your child is going to aftercare tomorrow, Thursday, 8/17 they will need to bring a packed lunch to school. Lunch for Friday, 8/19 will also need to be brought for everyone. Monday, 8/21 is the first day space camp lunch will be available.

SPIRIT DAYS

Thursdays will once again be Spirit Days. Students may wear their Spirit T-Shirts on Thursdays with their uniform jumpers/skirts/shorts. Becky DiPaolo is still taking orders if you would like to order a

shirt for the year. Contact the office or Becky DiPaolo with any questions. Students may wear previous year's shirts if they wish. Order form is attached below.

EL INDIO NIGHT

OLQP is having a "Dine to Donate" Fundraiser at El Indio in Bethalto on Friday, August 25. El Indio will donate 15% of your total bill back to OLQP. This fundraiser runs all day during the hours the restaurant is open. Show the flyer or tell the staff you are there for the OLQP fundraiser.

EXTRA CURRICULAR SIGN UPS

Sign up sheets for extra curricular activities went home on Sunday, 8/13. Forms are due back by Monday, 8/21 if your child would like to participate in any of these activities.

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch will start to be served on Tuesday, 9/5. Lunch is provided to our students from Bethalto School District. The cost this year is \$3.25 per lunch. Lunch orders for the week of 9/5 are due no later than Thursday 8/31. Send a note with the days your child wants to order and the money with your child in an envelope marked " Hot Lunch". Once the order is received your child will receive a lunch order receipt to bring home within a couple of days.

STATE RECORDS

The State of IL requires us to gather the following forms from students entering certain grades.

PreK- We need a copy of your child's certified Birth Certificate before the 1st day of school. We also need a school physical on file.

Kindergarten- If you have not attended OLQP for PreK, we need a copy of your child's certified Birth Certificate before the 1st day of school, State of IL Dental Exam Form, State of IL Eye Exam Form, and a School Physical completed within the last 12 months with up to date vaccinations on it.

2nd- We need a State of IL Dental Exam Form turned in for 2nd grade.

6th- We need a State of IL Dental Exam Form for 6th grade turned in and also a school physical completed with up to date vaccinations for 6th grade.

If you have any questions about what paperwork needs turned in, email Mrs Woodiel in the school office (cwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org) . You can scan in the forms and email them to Mrs Woodiel in the office, have your child's dr's office fax it to the school office (618-377-6146), or bring it by the school office.

SERVICE HOURS

Service hour logs were handed out on 8/13/23 for this school year. See the school website link below for more information on what counts as hours.

<https://www.olqpbethalto.org/parent-resources/service-hours.cfm>

SERVER SIGN UPS

The link for August/September server sign ups for weekend Masses have been posted on the school website. This counts for students in grades 4-8th for service hours. See link below to sign your child up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4daaa822a7fa7-august#/>

CMG CONNECT

The **CMGConnect** online training replaces the former Safe Environment Program (VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children") that was previously offered through our Archdiocese. Individuals are now required to complete all Safe Environment Training online.

CMG connect is a new web-based platform that will assist the Diocese to ensure that all employees and volunteers who are in a position of trust with children and vulnerable adults within our schools and parishes are trained to recognize behavior patterns of potential abusers and provide proactive measures for preventing abuse in any context. **This class needs to be completed before volunteering at the school and to complete most service hour opportunities.** Attached below is info about how to complete the class and the website to do it at.

<https://cmgconnect.org/>

SPACE CAMP LUNCHES

Since we do not begin our hot lunch program with the public schools until after Labor Day, we will be providing the opportunity for you to purchase a lunch for your child the first two weeks of school in order to help raise funds to send our kids (7th and/or 8th grade) to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Orders are due by 9 AM on Friday, August 18th. Please send this money separate from the regular hot lunch order.

<https://www.olqpbethalto.org/parent-resources/lunch-menu.cfm>

SCHOOL PICTURES

School picture order forms were sent home on Sunday, 8/13. School pictures are scheduled for Monday, 8/28. Free dress is allowed for picture day. Pictures will start at 8:30am and they will start with the youngest students first. If your child misses picture day, there will be a makeup day in November scheduled. You can order online anytime (if you order before picture day you get free shipping) or send in the payment to the school office at any time up until the day of pictures. If you do not order online before picture day you will receive a proof a few weeks after picture day to look at and you can order online at that time. Contact Chrissy in the school office with any questions.

FACULTY/STAFF TRAINING DAYS

The faculty and staff have been busy preparing for the return of our students by attending training days aimed at keeping them safe. Officer Shank from the Bethalto Police Department came in and did another intruder training. He provided valuable information and suggestions that we will use to continue to make sure our school is as safe as possible.

We also attended a CPR certification class in order to make sure we are as prepared as we can be in the case of a medical emergency.

DOOR/SECURITY CHANGES

Recently, we had locksmiths come and work on our doors to add extra security features. They made it to where when someone unlocks the door to enter the building, it is impossible to leave it unlocked. The key cannot be removed from the door until it is in the locked position.

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

We welcome Beth Kearns as our director of Caring Hands- our before and after school program. She will be checking id's when students are being picked up until she is familiar with everyone. Thank you for helping her keep our kids safe.

DRESS CODE

Please review the uniform guidelines found in the Policy Handbook on our website regarding dress code. Pay close attention to sock color, make up, and OLQP sweatshirts. Please make sure shoes have non marking soles.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9