

# OLC YEAR IN REVIEW

## Inside this Issue

Principal Updates

Service Award

First Communion

Achievements

Arise/Biz Town

Farm School

Student Service

Beau

Pilgrim Rosary

Board of Directors



# 24-25



*Our Lady of Consolation*

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

4865 11 Mile Rd NE Rockford, MI 49341

# LEGACY

---

## 21 Years at OLC

Kevin Varner has served as the principal of Our Lady of Consolation School (OLC) for 21 years, leaving a legacy defined by compassion, dedication, and unwavering leadership. Under his guidance, OLC has grown into a deeply connected and faith-centered community—one where families and staff feel supported and valued.

His personal touches—like knowing each student by name and his steady, thoughtful leadership style—helped shape a school culture that is both warm and welcoming. He is known for his daily high-fives, his presence at countless school events and meetings, and his ability to support families in both joyful and difficult moments.

His influence is felt in every tradition and hallway at OLC. Though his nameplate may no longer hang on the office door, the legacy he leaves behind will continue to guide the school for years to come.

As OLC looks ahead to a new chapter, Kevin's spirit remains ever-present in the community he helped build.





# WELCOME

---

## Meet New Principal Miss Giroux

Welcome Miss Giroux as the new principal of Our Lady of Consolation School! Miss G. brings a rich background in Catholic education.

She taught middle school math and science for 12 years at Corpus Christi in Holland, followed by six years at All Saints Academy's Upper Campus (St. Jude), where she served as a science teacher, Dean, and ultimately the building leader.

She has also taught math at Aquinas College and currently teaches educators each summer through the University of Notre Dame, where she earned her master's degree.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Miss G. to the OLC family!



Her guiding belief as an educator is that we can all grow.

***"I hope you'll support me in my growth as we all strive to become the best versions of ourselves and work together to better know, love, and serve God" - Miss G.***

# SERVICE AWARD

Selfless Giving



Congratulations to Mrs. Ellen Erhardt as this year's recipient of the Board of Directors Service Award.

Mrs. Erhardt is the Pre-school teacher at Our Lady of Consolation (OLC).

The 13th annual award recognizes an OLC staff member who demonstrates exemplary Christ-centered behavior and service through selfless giving. Nominations are submitted by students, school families and/or fellow staff members.

Mrs. Erhardt began at OLC in 2017, just finishing eight years. She has taught preschool threes, fours, and young fives, as well as the before and after school program.

"My favorite part of OLC is the OLC family. I feel very blessed to be part of this community," said Erhardt.

"I was very surprised, humbled, and blessed to receive the Service Award this year," she added.





# FIRST COMMUNION

In Mrs. Schuler's second-grade class, students prepare for one of the most meaningful moments in their faith journey—First Holy Communion—through a special tradition: creating personalized altar boxes. These boxes symbolize the sacred altar, where the banquet of the Lord's body and blood is celebrated.

This year, students had the opportunity to choose between two Sundays to receive their First Holy Communion. The first group received the sacrament on Sunday, April 27, which also happened to be Divine Mercy Sunday—a beautiful and fitting day to celebrate this milestone.

We are proud of our second graders and grateful to Mrs. Schuler for helping them grow in faith through both tradition and thoughtful preparation.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## 4th Grade

### Battle of the Books

The fourth grade brought home the first place trophy for their participation in this year's Battle of the Books reading competition. The competition concludes with a trivia-style "battle" where teams answer questions to showcase their comprehension and knowledge of the books they've read.



Our fifth-grade students have officially completed the D.A.R.E. program! This important milestone helps equip them with the tools and problem-solving strategies they need to make confident, healthy decisions—especially under pressure.

A heartfelt thank you to Officer Ian Graham of the Rockford Police Department for leading this program with such commitment and care. Officer Graham has been delivering D.A.R.E. programming at OLC for the past eight years, and we are so grateful for his continued dedication to our students.

## 5th Grade D.A.R.E





# ARISE

## Brain and Spirit Collaboration

This year, our seventh grade students participated in Arise, a weekly video series blending neurology, emotional growth, and Catholic faith. Led by Josh Hanson and Amy Pereira, students explored topics like grounding, emotional regulation, and resilience, then ended each session in Eucharistic Adoration—bringing newly learned virtues before Our Lord.

Arise helps teens develop calm, gratitude, and virtue, and is part of the Openlight Media platform, affiliated with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. A link to Openlight Media is available on our school website.



# BIZ TOWN

Fourth and sixth graders explored personal finance through Junior Achievement BizTown, a simulated community where they applied, interviewed, and worked at different businesses.



# FARM SCHOOL

---

## Environmental Science Experience

Fifth grade students attend the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell, Mich. to learn about environmental science concepts.



The seasonal schedule was twice this year and designed to help incorporate environmental concepts, specific to the land's natural cycles, into learning.

Led by Sister Mary Paul Moller, FSE, students observe and study animals, their habitats, and learn how to be good stewards of God's creation through planting and harvesting service work.

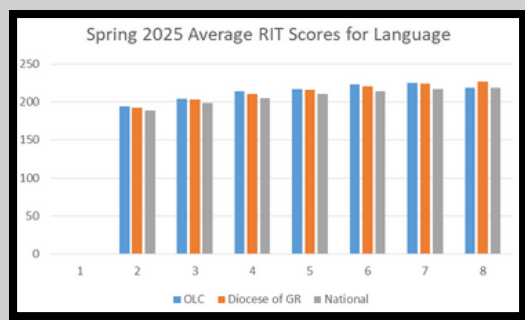
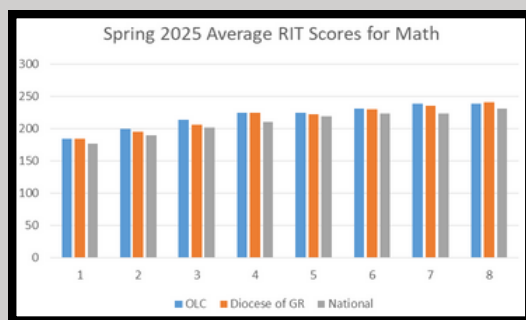
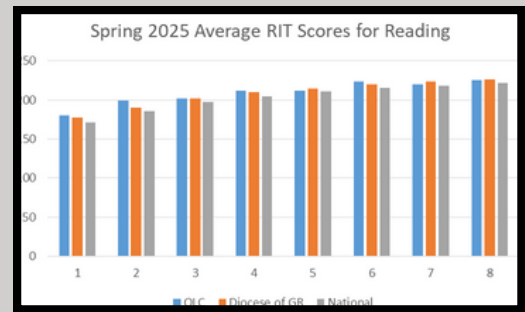
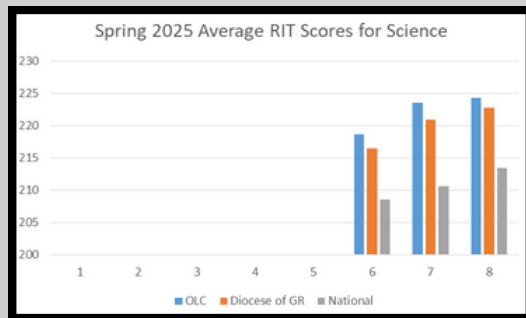
This spring, students participated in volunteer service by weeding garden beds.



# MAP SCORES

## Measuring Academic Performance

Students participate in NWEA - MAP testing three times a year and the results are used by educators as an indicator of academic growth and future progress. MAP assessment reports also help to inform instructional decisions.

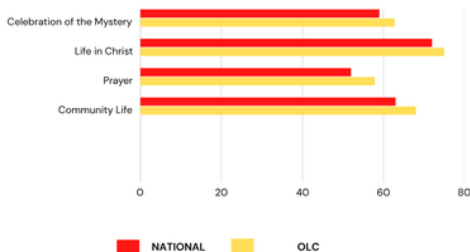


# ACRE SCORES

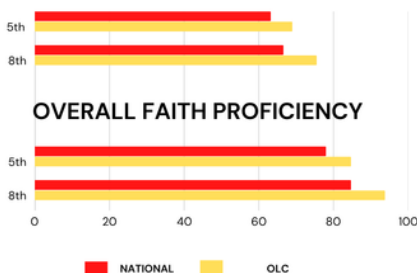
ACRE is designed to assist in the evaluation of catechetical/religious education programs in Catholic schools and parishes. As a multilevel, age appropriate tool, NCEA ACRE is used in grade 5 (Level 1); grades 8 or 9 (Level 2); and grades 11 or 12 (Level 3)

The NCEA IFG: ACRE edition is based on the Catholic Church's expectations for an organic, systematic, and comprehensive education in Christian discipleship. Currently, it is the only tool that provides national scores for comparison and processes for tracking religious education program data over time.

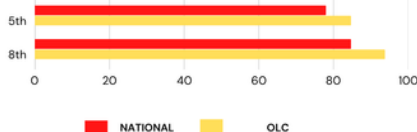
## 5TH DOMAINS



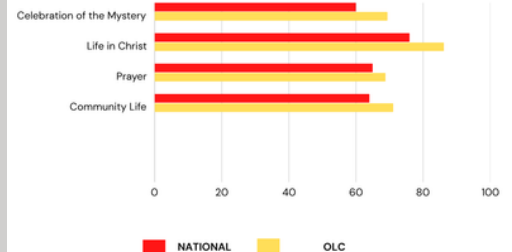
## OVERALL FAITH KNOWLEDGE



## OVERALL FAITH PROFICIENCY



## 8TH DOMAINS



Jesus said to his disciples, "I am among you as the one who serves" (Luke 22:27).

# DEDICATED TO SERVICE

## Signature Service Programs

Our students are taught the importance of giving back. This year's annual service projects focused on building healthy communities.



Students donated lunch proceeds to our sister school at St. Jacques in Haiti. They also experienced a cultural meal of rice and beans.



Y5 decorate food bags for Kids' Food Basket and 3rd packs food. 2nd grade makes cards and pictures for residents at Bishop Hills. 4th grade makes tie blankets for children at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and Kindergarten cards for nurses at Trinity Health. Middle School Layette Ministry,



# ANNUAL GIVING

## School Auction Thanksgiving

Another record year of proceeds benefiting the OLC School. On Saturday, April 26 OLC hosted the annual OLC Auction at "The Gilmore." This year's theme, *Night of Thanksgiving*, captured our thanks for the school and Mr. Varner's 21 years of service as school principal, while helping raise more than \$85,000 for the school's operating budget.





# BEAU

## A Year with the Dog

Since joining our school last year, Beau has brought countless smiles and an overwhelming sense of comfort to both students and staff. His presence offers a unique kind of support—someone to cuddle, talk to, and simply be near during challenging or stressful moments.

Beau's workday begins at 8 a.m., when he eagerly greets students as they arrive. One of his first stops is to receive the lunch count from his friend Juliana—a highlight of his morning that includes a quick chat and a little affection.

Throughout the day, Beau:

- Delivers lunches and papers to classrooms
- Retrieves students when needed
- Listens to students read aloud
- Takes short breaks to relax and recharge between tasks



Beau is always available when someone needs a little extra comfort, whether it's a quiet cuddle or simply having a calm presence nearby.



# PILGRIM ROSARY

## Tracking Our Prayer Journey

In fall 2024, The Spiritual Growth Committee launched a special initiative at Our Lady of Consolation—the Pilgrim Rosary. Each classroom received a blessed, trackable Pilgrim Rosary designed to foster prayerful connection within our school community.

Each week, one student from every class (Preschool through eighth grade, including Cougar Care) will be chosen to take home a special trackable rosary.

Families are encouraged to pray the rosary together. After praying the rosary, a QR code is scanned to log the experience as part of a publicly visible prayer tracking website. A link is also available on our school website to view our school Pilgrim Rosary #7047.

The goal of this traveling rosary is to build community, strengthen family faith life, and unite our OLC school community in prayer.

Mother Mary, pray for us!



**As students progress through their years at OLC, they will carry with them the memory of having prayed on the same rosary that future Cougars will one day hold.**



# SCHOOL BOARD

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Tim Warwick-President  
Eric Schumacher-Vice President  
Amy Moore  
Ashley Kamann  
Nick Sweeney  
Matt Schichtel  
Larry Poleski  
Karl Kaluzny  
Chris Warloe  
Jon LaSotta  
Sister Mary Paul Moller

An effective school board plays a vital role in ensuring that OLC School continues to thrive. We are grateful for the dedication, time, and care each member contributes to help make our school the very best it can be.

A special thank you to Tim Warwick, whose term on the school board concludes at the end of this school year. We are deeply appreciative of his service, leadership, and commitment to the OLC community.

## RETIREMENT

### Mary Mark Says Goodbye

Mrs. Mary Mark has worked as a classroom aide and substitute teacher at OLC for nearly 20 years. Congratulations on your retirement!

We will miss your dedication, wisdom and sense of humor. May your retirement be filled with love, joy, travel, and many visits to see your grandchildren.



# NOW ENROLLING

## PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE

[https://olcschoolrockford.schooladminonline.com/portal/new\\_inquiry](https://olcschoolrockford.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry)

---

## CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

2 1/2 years of age through school age.

(must be fully potty trained)



**For more information:**

616 866 0931

or email

[ampetersen@olcschoolrockford.org](mailto:ampetersen@olcschoolrockford.org)