

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2009-2010

A school with a VISION...Developing tomorrow's Christian leaders in the community we serve

- I. **Mission Statement:** OLPH Catholic School provides a quality, faith-based education in a safe environment inspiring students to successfully continue their education and become responsible members of the community.

- II. **Introduction:** OLPH Catholic School was established in 1946 in the Love Field neighborhood of Dallas, Texas. The purpose was to assist families in the Catholic formation of their children and to educate students to become responsible citizens and committed Catholics. The school has evolved over the years to reflect the changing needs of the Church, neighborhood and society. Though the demographics may have changed over the past half century, the overall purpose of the school continues with a clear vision to provide families with an opportunity for their children to not only succeed in school, but also to be prepared to make a positive contribution to their community, both local and global.

- III. **School Profile:**
 - Ethnic mix: 98% Hispanic; 2% include Asian and Anglo-American
 - Demographics: The school is located in a low-income, low middle class neighborhood.
 - Financial support:
 - Tuition income from families is less than 25% of the budget. The majority of students are receiving tuition assistance.
 - The school is dependent on grants and benefactors in order to continue.
 - OLPH parish provides monthly support of \$7,000. Other supporting parishes are:
 - Christ the King with special projects, e.g. provided the public address system.
 - All Saints Parish sends \$1,000 each month.
 - St. Joseph Parish (Richardson) sends periodic donations (approximately \$3,000 per year)
 - Church of the Incarnation (approximately \$4,000 per year)
 - St. Paul the Apostle Parish (Richardson) (approximately \$2,000 per year)
 - Tuition Assistance:
 - CEF (Children's Education Fund)
 - Next Generation Fund
 - ETF (Education Trust Fund)
 - Private scholarships and sponsors of individual students
 - Restricted grants and services from various sources:
 - Southwest Airlines provides technology support
 - Westerman Foundation
 - The Catholic Foundation
 - Hillcrest Foundation, founded by Mrs. W.W. Caruth, Sr.
 - Other sources of income:
 - Special fund-raising projects (e.g. annual Auction party)
 - Home & School Association projects
 - Unrestricted grant money from private parties
 - St. Anne Society of Christ the King Parish special projects

- **Accessibility:** In order to make the school accessible to the Love Field neighborhood families, to continue to grow programs, to maintain the facilities at a quality level, to provide additional facilities needed to accommodate the growing student body, and to retain a well-qualified faculty and staff, the school is clearly dependent on the generosity of benefactors and supporters of education in the greater Dallas community.

IV. Student Body & Staff

- Number of students: 180
- Professional Faculty 15
- Support Staff 7

V. Goals:

- 1) The Early Childhood program provides a sound early learning program to enable students to be ready to learn and achieve.
- 2) Each student will learn and grow to his/her fullest potential.
- 3) People are unique...Each student is encouraged to develop his/her academic gifts and special talents.
- 4) Students will take pride in their accomplishments and strive to become positive, productive members of their community.
- 5) Families will become involved in the educational development of their children.
- 6) Each student graduating from OLPH will be well-prepared to meet the challenges of high school and beyond.

VI. Strategic Plan:

- In September 2007 various stakeholders in the school met for two days to totally focus on the direction and future of OLPH.
- A new administrative design was created, including support committees to intensively focus on the following areas:
 - 1) Staff Development
 - 2) Facilities
 - 3) Curriculum & Instruction
 - 4) Physical & Financial Development
 - 5) Finance
 - 6) Student Recruitment, Retention & Matriculation
- During the 2007-2008 school year the committees have actively worked with the Advisory Council and Principal to study, design and plan for continued campus improvement in each area.
- The Strategic Plan, as implemented, has worked at a superior level, focusing on providing OLPH with a high-quality education for its students.

V. School Program Design:

- 1) **A balanced program** for the complete formation of the student: spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally.
- 2) **Multi-Age Early Childhood program** for children ages 3-5.

- 3) **Overall academic emphasis** on language literacy, math and science. Our philosophy of education is one in which learners are immersed in their study of the reading and English language literacy at every level. Instruction in the various subjects is integrated, incorporating reading and language in each core subject (math, social studies, science, etc.).
- 4) **Technology:** Computer technology is integrated into the curriculum in every subject area. In August, 2009, all classrooms and teaching areas were equipped with LCD projectors, mini-laptop computers, and Airliners to facilitate the use of the internet in regular classroom teaching/learning situations. Direct computer instruction in the use of various programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, and keyboarding is given in grades 6-8.
- 5) **Fine Arts program** including music, art and drama offers students a forum in which to develop hidden talents and to creatively express them.
- 6) The school incorporates developmental programs at every level in **Study Skills and Social Skills**.
- 7) The **Physical Education program** provides students with opportunities to understand their own physical development and nutritional needs. At each grade level students regularly work on personal fitness exercises. Our focus is to give each one skills for both competitive sports and life-long activity.
- 8) **Summer Program:** OLPH offers a four-week full day program designed to challenge and enrich students. The program is individualized to both meet the needs of students requiring remedial teaching as well as those seeking enrichment in their academic studies. Along with the academic focus are practical life and environmental experiences.
- 9) **Behavioral Expectations & Guidelines:** For all students to be productive their rights to learn and to be respected are closely protected. A clear plan of behavioral expectations and guidelines is articulated and monitored to ensure a positive and safe environment in which each student can learn and grow.

VI. Expected Outcomes:

- That each student will have the opportunity to participate in the educational process in programs and at levels appropriate to his/her personal development.
- That each student will be able to continue in high school and beyond, to continue developing talents, to pursue careers, and to realize dreams for personal fulfillment and the betterment of society.
- That members of the greater community will recognize the purpose and value of schools like OLPH and be ready to support the mission of these schools.

VII. **Conclusion:** OLPH is a Catholic school for committed families that seek a quality education in a positive environment because OLPH is a foundation for educational success in high school and beyond.