



Dear Olney Christian Family,

We are looking forward to another year of partnering with you to educate your student's mind, nurture their heart and train their hands with life skills. This letter includes information that should be helpful to you as you look ahead to the 2023-2024 school year.

New Student Orientation: Thursday, August 24, 2023. We will have an Open House from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Representatives from our Business Office, our administrative staff and your student's teacher will be available to meet with you. There will be a short presentation at 3:45 and again at 4:45 to review the major points in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Returning families are welcome to stop by as well!

First Day of School: Wednesday August 30, 2023 8:30am for the Elementary School, 9:00am for the Middle School. Before care will be available at 7:45 at the elementary school (students play with games and puzzles in the gym) and 8:20 at the Middle School (all students report to the cafeteria upon arrival each day; breakfast is served until 8:45).

Staff: *Lisa Kuzma* is our Principal, *Gina Wharton* is the Assistant Principal, *Barb Wilbraham* and *Manny Hackman* are our administrative assistants. Please check out our website for teacher and staff information.

Transportation: The School District is required to provide transportation to school for 1st to 8th grade students. Kindergarteners are not permitted on buses. Please reach out to Mrs. Wilbraham at admin@olneychristian.org so she can start the process to have your student assigned to a route. The School District will send communication a few days before the start of school to inform families where the bus stop will be.

This year, the city is again paying parents to transport their own students to school one way or both ways, via the Parent Flat Rate Program. More information and enrollment forms can be found here: <https://www.philasd.org/transportation/parent-flat-rate-pilot/>
Email admin@olneychristian.org to receive the student code you will need to enroll.

School Calendar: The school calendar is available under the "current families" tab on our school website: www.olneychristianschool.org

Safety Rules for Parking

Elementary School - Please do not block alleys even for a short time. Parking on the sidewalk is also not permitted since that is a safety issue for students exiting and entering the building. In addition, we discourage parking on Roosevelt Blvd due to the speed of the traffic and incidence of accidents. Please use the side streets (Westford and D) to drop off or pick students up. The space in front of the main doors must remain clear at all times for buses to pull up.

Middle School - To help with congestion at the end of the day, please park in an actual spot in the parking lot. You may also park along the curb.

Parent Volunteers: There are many opportunities and activities for volunteering at Olney Christian. The Home & School Association meets routinely to discuss field trips and other events. The HSA appreciates and depends on volunteers to make these activities possible. Please consider this as a wonderful way to serve the Lord and be involved in your student's schooling. **Chaperones** for Field Trips will need two clearances on file at least one full day prior to the trip. See school website for more information and instructions.

Cell Phone and Smart Watch Policy: It is preferred that students not bring these items to school. If you feel it is necessary, please note that all devices should be placed on SILENT and remain in backpacks or in a basket at the teacher's desk when the student arrives at school. This policy can be found in our parent/student handbook.

Uniform Policy: Navy bottoms, white/light blue/gold tops with OCS Logo. There are more details listed in the handbook that can be found on our school website.

Free School Lunch Program: Olney Christian School participates in the federal free hot lunch program administered by the archdiocese. Students can choose to bring their lunch from home or eat what is served that day – the students will be asked by their teachers each morning and no formal signup is necessary. A Lunch calendar is provided at the beginning of each month and linked on our website.

Middle School Retreat: Last week in September. A fun day for the middle school to get away and get to know each other and their teachers better. The focus is on building a strong classroom and school community as well as becoming familiar with school norms and the associated life skills. There will be icebreaker games, trust building activities and teaching. Permission Slips will be sent home the first week of school.

Annual School-Wide Fundraiser: *RACE FOR EDUCATION* will be October 20th at Hunting Park Rec Center Football Field. Details will be sent home after school gets underway but you can begin thinking of people you can ask to sponsor your student! We welcome families to participate.

Medical Health Information: Kindergarteners, 7th graders, and any new students are required by the Pennsylvania School Health Act to be current on their immunizations. **Per State law, if any student does not have an up to date health record, they will not be allowed in the building on the first day of school.** A vaccination record can simply be asked for and printed by your doctor's office.

We can't wait to see you soon!

Blessings,

Lisa Kuzma

Lisa Kuzma, Principal