



Parent Update

Vision 2018

July 22, 2016

Greetings OLM Community! Here is the latest news from the Vision Committee:

The members of the Vision Committee hope this communication finds you enjoying your summer with family, friends, and good times! The Committee wanted to take a moment to update our OLM family on the progress we are making in our work streams, the timeline we have established, and some upcoming events for our school.

Progress continues on all three models for OLM's future. A walk-through of Madison Public Schools facilities is scheduled for early August, a meeting with the Sisters of Mercy is scheduled for September, and in a recent meeting of the East Shore Deanery (our district within the Archdiocese of Hartford) we learned that the current pastoral planning process being undertaken by the Archdiocese of Hartford could support OLM's expansion to a regional school. This represents a significant step forward in our effort to grow OLM as the premier Catholic School on the shoreline.

It is important to note that the pastoral plan is only in the *first draft* phase, with two more drafts yet to come. It is also important to note that it is encouraging that there may be support within our local district for the regional school model. While the OLM community may not pursue this path of expansion, it is a significant step forward to garner the support of our neighboring pastors and their parish representatives. Until now, we had been unsure about the level of support a regional school expansion could expect. The concurrent pastoral planning process has afforded us the opportunity to better investigate this option.

With all three relocation options remaining on the table, and the pastoral planning process ongoing, the Vision Committee is planning to host a parent forum, in the Fall 2016. This forum will provide an opportunity for the OLM community to learn more about the options and steps taken, as well as to hear your highly valued input on the Vision of OLM, i.e. your goals for our school, and what makes this community of excellence, ministry, and spirituality, special and unique. The Committee anticipates narrowing of relocation options in the weeks to come. We value your thoughts and ideas regarding the preservation of traditions and history that are OLM that need to be continued in the location of the school in the future. While it is a time of uncertainty, we can be certain that the vibrant and close-knit, enthusiastic OLM community has the unusual and exciting opportunity to be in the position to shape our destiny as a 21st century Catholic school. We do not want to miss this opportunity to keep the tradition of excellence and create new opportunities for learning, evangelization, and mission!

Additionally, remember to join us at 11:00 a.m. on August 7th in the St. George Parish Hall, and at 11:00 a.m. on August 21 at St. Margaret's for a pancake breakfast, where you can say hello to our new Principal, Mrs. Panzo, and speak with representatives from the vision committee (see the EduConnect email sent earlier this month for details).

Also, consider participating in the CRS / Helping Hands global hunger event being held at St. George on July 31st. Wear your OLM gear and represent your school! (See St. George website for details)

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

- Vision Committee