



Mary of Lourdes School

*205 3rd St. NW – 307 4th St. SE
Little Falls, MN 56345*

Jodi Vanderheiden, Principal
(320) 632-6742
(320) 632-3556 Fax

Mary Sowada, Assistant Principal
(320) 632-5408
(320) 632-5409 Fax

NEW FAMILY QUESTIONS:

1. What is the mission of Mary of Lourdes School?

Mary of Lourdes School is dedicated to excellence in education by focusing on the whole person; integrating learning with faith and faith with daily life.

2. What types of religious opportunities are available?

- a. Students participate in various Catholic oriented activities including: weekly mass, prayer services during Advent and Lent and in the classroom, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, May Crowning, Reconciliation, retreat day, and Passover Meal.
- b. Religion class and memorizing prayers are part of the curriculum.

3. What is the average class size and is there a class size limit?

- a. The average class size is 16 students. The class size policy is a limit of 20 students in each class/section grades K' and one. A limit of 48 students per grade for second through eighth grade (24 per class/section).

4. How is the school staffed?

- a. There are full time licensed teachers in each classroom along with specialists in Physical Education, Music, and Media.
- b. There are paraprofessionals in each building to assist learners in the classrooms.
- c. Each building is staffed with secretarial, custodian and hot lunch personnel.

5. What are the curriculum expectations?

- a. Students receive instruction in language arts (includes grammar, reading, spelling), information/media technology (includes library and computer instruction), math, religion, science, and social studies. Students also have instruction in art, general music, band/choir/jazz band, physical education, health, and Spanish (at the middle school level).
- b. Each curricular area has learner performance standards for each grade level.
- c. We have access to special education services offered through the public school.

6. Is the school system accredited?

Yes, MOLS is an accredited school system. Our accreditation is from the Minnesota Non Public School Accrediting Association.

7. How is my child transported to Mary of Lourdes School?

Bus services are provided through the District Transportation Office, Palmer Bus, and Strack Bus Service. Parents work directly with District Transportation and the two bus services when arranging for pick up and drop off.

8. Does Mary of Lourdes School follow the same calendar as the public school?

Yes, the MOLS calendar year coincides with the public school. In this way, transportation is provided for our students.

9. In what ways can we get involved at Mary of Lourdes School?

- a. Parental involvement is strongly encouraged. When you are involved with your child's education, you realize how fortunate MOL students are! The volunteer opportunities include classroom, office, library, special projects, supervision, along with many other activities.
- b. The Parent and School Organization is our parent organization. They raise funds for school projects and provide social gatherings to get to know other families. Each family is asked to assist with the volunteering efforts of the school by giving of their time and talent by donating 15 credits of service within our volunteer program. Volunteers bring ideas, energy and expertise, and are an essential part of what makes our school great! View our Volunteer Guidelines on our website for more information.

10. What after school activities can students from MOLS participate in?

- a. Students can participate in all activities sponsored by the public school and community services. Bussing arrangements are made to transport students who attend after school activities.
- b. MOL School provides the following student activities at the middle school: Knowledge Bowl, Student Council, Church Choir, Speech Festival, Yearbook, Jazz Band, Spelling Bee and Geography Bee.

11. How is Mary of Lourdes School funded?

- a. The school receives income from the parishes, tuition, and fundraising.
 - i. Parishes provide approximately 50% of the operating income.
 - ii. Tuition is set each year by the MOL School Board.

Non-Parish/Non-Catholic tuition is assessed by a formula found in Policy S402.11.

There are two sources of scholarship funding available to assist with tuition. The 1st source is called the "F.A.I.R." Scholarship, which is received by completing an application form that is sent to an outside agency for review. That agency makes a recommendation on how much scholarship funding to award per student. For those families who apply and do not qualify for a F.A.I.R. scholarship, they may contact either building principal to apply for a "Support a Student" scholarship (the 2nd scholarship source offered at MOLS) or contact their parish priest for tuition support.
 - iii. Fundraising income is received annually from our parent organization, MOL Parent and School Organization.
 - iv. Scrip Program – Families may receive tuition credit every year by purchasing Scrip (local & national gift cards).