

Academy of Our Lady

The Innovative
Catholic
High School
of New Orleans

July 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Young Ladies,

Welcome to Academy of Our Lady—The Innovative High School of New Orleans! We are excited that you are joining our Salesian Family! Together we can help our young women develop “the values to live as Catholic Christians, the drive for life-long learning, and the skills to succeed as responsible citizens in society.” (Vision Statement)

Every year the students choose a theme that will be used throughout the year. This year the Student Council has chosen the theme “AOL in Bloom: Cultivating Young Women at the Well of Salesian Holiness.” This theme is an excellent expression of our goal to help each young lady at the Academy grow and blossom into the young adult who develops all her gifts and talents. A young lady of virtue, capable of making the right choices.

The Academy will be a place where you grow intellectually and spiritually over the next few years. We ask our young ladies to prepare to open their minds to new and exciting curricula, to find their voice as they grow to discover who they are called to be, to learn to lead, and to enjoy being an integral part of our world-wide Salesian family.

This summer the campus was alive with a summer enrichment program, a vibrant day camp, various sports’ clinics and high school students volunteering as counselors and mentors. It was great to see so many young people enjoying the campus and having a great Salesian experience.

This year we continue to expand the educational opportunities for the students. The STEM program is expanding this year to offer a level 3 engineering class. The math department has added the option of Algebra 3. We are offering two online classes as an option for upperclassmen in Math and Foreign Language. As more and more universities are adding online or blended classes, we want to make sure our students are prepared for these changes in traditional education. Although these changes affect the upperclassmen, it is critical that you start thinking ahead about the course of studies you would like to pursue. Our students have the opportunity to earn 36 college credits. As the innovative Catholic School of New Orleans, we are committed to ensuring quality programs and courses that will help our young ladies be successful in the university and beyond. It is so nice to hear from our graduates. We have graduates who are in medical school studying to be doctors, past pupils in pharmacy school and so many who are already practicing nurses, teachers, engineers, etc.!

Many sports teams have been conditioning over the summer. If you are interested in participating in any sport, please contact Mr. Scott Walker at swalker@theacademyofourlady.org. The sports program includes volleyball, bowling, basketball, cross-country, soccer, golf, track and field, soccer, tennis, cheer, swimming and softball.

This year we will continue to focus on service learning as a way to link theoretical knowledge with practical real world application. This hands-on, project based shift will take place over the next several years. It fosters those skills critical to success in our ever-changing world. It also allows us to live our faith in a way that benefits others as we discover how academics, service and faith are linked together. In the world where almost all information can be found on the internet, critical thinking skills and application of knowledge are the key to success that we want to give to our young ladies.

A special academic focus will also be writing and speaking across the curriculum. This focus will give students the confidence to be articulate advocates for themselves and others.

Many of you signed up to sell raffle tickets this year. I thank you for that. Fundraising is critical if we want to keep tuition from increasing as we continue to grow our program offerings. The profit from last year’s first raffle was used to purchase a new van for the use of the law and health internship classes. We also purchased a large ice machine for the concession stand that can also be used by the trainer for ice baths. Individual teachers were invited to make requests for items that would enrich their course offerings. Among the many items purchased were sound/lighting equipment for the theater, large monitor and other equipment for the TV production class, equipment for robotics and culinary, supplemental materials for several core classes. We are looking into purchasing pews for the chapel if there are sufficient funds.

At the end of last year, we began the Academy of Our Lady Endowment Fund. Once this endowment reaches a million dollars, it is dedicated to providing financial aid for our students. This long-term investment, once it matures, will become an ongoing source of

aid for families who experience an unforeseen difficulty in paying tuition due to serious illness or job loss. If you know of anyone who would like to contribute to the endowment, please let us know.

We are blessed to have many new students joining our family again this year. Our family continues to grow as you and your classmates choose education excellence and become members of our Penguin family.

We have been busy all summer preparing for the 2018-19 school year. I cannot wait to see you on **August 8th** for Book Day. **August 9th** will be classes for the pre-freshmen and a welcome session for transfer students. **August 10th** freshmen through seniors will have classes. Pre-freshmen will not have school Friday, August 10th.

On **August 11th** Student Council hosts a *family day* for all new students from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. This is a chance to meet other students and their families. Food will be served. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

This e-mail contains a great deal of information. Please read everything carefully.

1. I have included the schedule for orientation day.
2. Mrs. Amy Danos, Dean of Students, has included a schedule for book day. If you have any questions, please contact her at ext. 214.
3. Mrs. Maryanne Paley, Registrar, included a copy of your courses, as well as, the course fees. Information regarding the Parent Portal is also included. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Paley at ext. 206.
4. Mrs. Melinda St. Germain requests that you read the Technology Policy. Please bring the signed form on book day. She can be reached at ext. 222.
5. In order to facilitate a smooth flow of traffic and avoid a back-up on the expressway, please follow this carefully. I expect the first week to be hectic until everyone gets into a routine.

Arrival

- Students should arrive at school no later than 7:00 a.m. For the first few weeks, it would be good to be at school by **6:55** to avoid long drop off lines.
- **Pre-Freshmen and Freshmen** will be picked up and dropped off by the guidance department near the front of the school.
- **Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors** will be picked up and dropped off back by the gym.

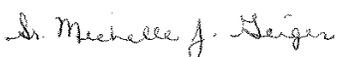
Dismissal

- If you arrive before the busses have left, **please park in the parking lot**. If you pull-through or back into a spot, it makes getting out easier.
- If your schedule permits, I would suggest arriving at approximately 2:40 p.m. for pick up. Most of the busses have left and traffic has usually subsided by then.
- Students should be picked-up by 3 p.m. unless they are involved in an activity.

The school office is open Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 1 pm for the month of July. Normal office hours will resume July 30th. Should the person you need not be available, please leave a message. Your call will be returned.

Praying that you have a safe and wonderful end of the summer!

God bless!



Sr. Michelle J. Geiger
Principal

