

Good afternoon, families!

I will offer a weekly form of communication to parents each Wednesday. This email will serve as the first form of that communication. I'll include updates, reminders, and general messages. I will also offer a brief spiritual message in each week's email. These messages will be archived under the 'Principal's Corner' on the school's website.

This Saturday the Catholic Church celebrates the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the saint of Auschwitz. Not long after Poland was occupied by the Nazis, St. Maximilian was arrested and sent to Auschwitz, a Nazi death camp. After some Jewish prisoners had escaped the camp, the Nazi guards selected ten men for execution as retribution. One of the ten men pleaded that he be spared as he was a husband and father. In an act of model charity, St. Maximilian offered to take the man's place. He was executed on August 14, 1941.

C.S. Lewis said our goal as a Christian is 'to become a little Christ.' St. Maximilian Kolbe teaches us to live as Christ through his profound acts of love. He said and certainly lived in a way that proved that genuine love for our neighbor soars to God. Let us pray to St. Maximilian Kolbe that we, too, can live this radical love in our own lives! May we help each child at Our Lady of Grace become a 'little Christ'!

And now for some information and updates:

We are just under three weeks from the start of the school year. As a reminder, the first day of classes for students in 1st-8th grade is **Tuesday, August 31**. The preschool and kindergarten students have their first day of school on **Tuesday, September 7**. I look forward to meeting the students!

I would like to offer a welcome to all of our new families. Thank you for choosing Our Lady of Grace! As a reminder, please register for an account on FACTS to manage your tuition account. Those accounts can be registered [here](#).

The BLOCS Scholarship Application is available. Please use the [link](#) on FACTS to apply for the scholarship. If you have questions about the scholarship, there is a Frequently Asked Question [page](#) on the BLOCS Website.

CYO registration has begun for both fall and winter sports. OLG offers cross country and soccer during the fall and basketball during the winter. Please go to [CYO Registration](#) to register. We appreciate any parent who would consider coaching or assisting a team. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with your child and his/her friends while supporting the parish.

I am excited to announce that we are partnering with Northeastern Music Programs again to offer instrumental music lessons to interested students who are enrolled in grades 3-8. If you'd like to learn more about the program or to sign your child up, visit this [link](#).

I am also excited to introduce our new lunchtime partner: [Yay Lunch](#), where parents can order healthier versions of food kids love. All meals are local, made fresh every morning, and delivered directly to school. [Sign up today](#) and get 50% off your first week with promo code **WELCOME50**. View the menu, order now, and never worry about lunch again.

Students will return to school in their normal uniforms. The Swap Shop was open the last two weeks. If you were unaware or unable to make it, please contact the school to schedule a time to visit the Swap Shop. The Swap Shop offers gently used uniforms to our families at no cost.

I know all are wondering about specific guidelines for the start of the school year with regards to COVID. At this moment, no specific guidelines have been released. Please know that as those guidelines are available, they will be shared with parents.

Go Gators!

In Christ,  
Mr. Harper