



August 16, 2025

My dear Parents,

As I begin to WELCOME you to the beginning of a unique and exciting new school year, I realize that my very first such greeting (1987) was written before so many of you were even born! Much happened since then in our Church, our country and at OLH!

We have witnessed 9/11, Superstorm Sandy, the Covid pandemic, three papal and nine presidential elections in that period that gave birth to OLH's second floor, Wellness Center/ gymnasium, playground, almost triple enrollment, three Middle States commendations and plans for the development of "the yellow house".

This notation is not to wear you out, or simply to recap history, but rather to "WELCOME YOU" to what we believe is a unique and dynamic community! This year is particularly exciting as we bring on board several new faculty members who will work on the faculty team in a strengthened academic program!

The key word for this year is **MISSION**. Literally, "mission" means "an important assignment for a special purpose". One is usually sent on a mission to create good. The Mission Statement of OLH declares that we **"..... fully dedicate ourselves to utilize our personal and professional gifts and talents for the total education of our students so that they may become aware of their place in the future as Christians and citizens of this country and the Kingdom of God."**

That being said. **WELCOME** to all of you.....those who join us for the first time, those who have moved up from Pre-K, those who start year three, five, eight.....and those who are second generation OLH! Let's begin this mission and create something wonderful for our children...and our God! A few practicalities and updates:

Our community is enriched by the addition of **Miss Alyssa Cuzzola** who begins her Catholic school career as our Kindergarten teacher.....**Mrs. Gena Girardin**, who will lead grade 2.....**Mr. Anthony Gruzzo**, the homeroom teacher for grade 5 BOYS.....**Miss Courtney Hidalgo**, homeroom for grade 5 GIRLS.....**Miss Carlene DeScalo**, Art . (Yes, there are TWO homerooms for Grade 5!) You can expect a whole new initiative and emphasis on Classic literature and writing skills especially in the Intermediate grades!

The Pre-K program will have a whole new look, led by **Mrs. Victoria Lombardo** and **Mrs. Debora Farley** and assisted by **Mrs. Sheri David**, **Sra Araceli Sanchez** and **Miss Josephine Burriesci**.

You can be certain that our Fine Arts program will continue to develop...(building on that national championship tap team) and that there will be, hopefully, more interaction and involvement of our families as a whole in the all-important Religion program. These two areas are what helps to make OLH different from other schools!

As you enter the building remind yourself that this is your **MISSION** ...to spread the message of unity, strength, faith and hope at Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional CATHOLIC school!

Peace always! Let us begin!

Sister Kathy