



DOMUS AUREA

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy
2483 Bleams Road
New Hamburg ON N3A 3J2

<http://www.sspcx.ca/olmc> olmc@netflash.net

519-634-4932 519-634-9395 (fax)



#13

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Dear friends and benefactors of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy,

For this issue of the newsletter, I wanted to allow our Junior High and High School teachers to present to you themselves their goals and objectives, that you might be able to see how they view their vocation as teachers, and their determination to give a spiritual and intellectual formation of high level, worthy of a truly Catholic school.

I call it a vocation, because all of our teachers have made great sacrifices to teach at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, nor can it be considered simply as a job, but requires a special inspiration and grace to enter into a hand to hand combat for children's minds and souls. Allow me to quote Pope Pius XII:

"The Christian educator cannot be satisfied with letting nature do its work, or simply favoring it, as if he were a farmer dealing with the fruits of the earth. He, like the grace of God, of which he wants to be nothing more than the helper, corrects and elevates at one and the same time. He fights against the lower inclinations and works to see that the higher ones develop. He struggles patiently and firmly with the defects of his pupils and trains them in virtue. He lifts them up and improves them. In this way Christian education participates in the mystery of the Redemption and effectively works with it. From this comes the greatness of your work, which is in a way analogous to that of the priest". (To the Italian Catholic Union of Secondary Education, January 4, 1954)

This is a precise and profound description of our daily struggle as teachers, who to be good must have "a pure professional Catholic conscience, a soul burning with apostolic zeal, a clear idea of doctrine, which must penetrate all their teaching, and a profound conviction of serving the highest spiritual and cultural interests" (Pius XII on January 12, 1954 to the Inter-American Congress on Catholic Education). But this is not enough for a teacher to be successful in his vocation. He must, as Pope Pius XII points out, also have all the human qualities necessary to form souls, which also are inseparable from the teacher's vocation: "Good teachers, then, should have perfect human formation, intellectual and moral. For the teaching office is a lofty one which calls for intellectual discernment and goodness of heart, for a capacity for intuition and sensitivity of spirit, for adaptability and renunciation as well as human depth, capable of bearing everything for the love of neighbor." (Ib.)

As you read through the following descriptions of our teachers' goals in each subject, keep in mind that all are striving to be faithful to their vocation, as described by Pope Pius XII, and all are mindful of the fundamental statement of Pope Pius XI: "Perfect schools are not so much the result of good methods as of good teachers" (Divini illius magistri).

Yours faithfully in the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts,

Father Peter R. Scott

Registration for boarders and day students for 2013-2014 is due by June 1, 2013. Please contact the school for registration forms and further information.



The 9th & 10th grade boys in class. They receive a fully Catholic education at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy in an environment that supports and fosters personal initiative, understanding and mutual help in the spirit of the Holy Catholic Faith.

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION - Father Peter R. Scott

The four years of High School religion enable the student to go beyond his catechism, and to obtain a much more profound understanding of his Catholic Faith. It is consequently a summary of Dogmatic and Moral Theology with special attention given to the teaching of the Magisterium and the explanation of St. Thomas Aquinas. There is a full explanation of the development of Catholic doctrine, and the refutation of heresy, and in Moral Theology an explanation of the virtues, and the principles for the resolution of moral problems. All the modern problems that young people will have to face after leaving school are faced square on, with the full explanation of the Catholic Faith. Modern errors are explained and refuted, especially as found in Vatican II and the teaching of the post-conciliar Popes, in particular Naturalism, Humanism and Liberalism. The importance of an intense prayer life to live as Catholics in the world is emphasized, and backed up by regular Confession and daily Mass. Discussions, presentations, essays and written examinations make up an assessment which is gauged to assess the students' ability to defend traditional Catholic principles and teachings.



Father Scott delivers a lecture in his religion class for the High School Boys.



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS MATH AND SCIENCE - Mr. Elliott

True Catholic education challenges students while enabling them to realize their potentials and encouraging them to work to succeed. It is in direct opposition to the world of today, which fosters apathy and mediocrity. To counter this neglectful worldly spirit, OLMCA has introduced the Cambridge International Examinations syllabus for Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology for the High School boys. CIE challenges the best students - as traditionally was the method - to think independently and apply principles, and their lead encourages other students to follow. CIE has not diluted their syllabi over the last two generations; Grade 12 CIE is equivalent to first year university.

Mr. Elliott supervises a science lab with the Grade 11 & 12 Boys.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ENGLISH EXPRESSION - Mr. Matthew Zepf

Rhetoric is the lens through which I have the boys view English Expression. My course is designed to elevate the boys' concept and mastery of language and styles by teaching them the traditional schemes and tropes practiced since antiquity to the modern methods and techniques found in marketing and business. It is my goal to have the boys become fluent with literary styles, semiotics, and rhetorical application, both to be able to express themselves with precision and tact, but also so that they can recognize when such techniques are used on themselves by the media and others. The manner of expression - whether overt or covert - is as vital to the message as the content, and the boys are given a gauntlet of styles and assignments to hone their skills. I strive to provide a course that will give a young man confidence in his ability to express and digest information so that, when he graduates, he goes forth with a rhetorical arsenal that he can wield in any walk of life or future field of study.



Mr. Matthew Zepf fields questions in a literature class.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ENGLISH LITERATURE - Mr. Matthew Zepf

At the High School level, the boys are introduced to a level of literary study equivalent to first year university. The grade 9 & 10's are given complex works taken from the literary canon and provided the contextual elements necessary to appreciate from where such works sprung. They are then directed in mining the text, close-reading and envisioning the emotions and complex beauty and concepts enfolded within the works themselves. The Grade 11 & 12's are given a custom course that approaches English Literature purely through English works, beginning with Anglo Saxon compositions through to the modern day. This gives the students a rare opportunity to watch the English language evolve while exploring the themes and history inherent in the language itself. Ultimately, it is hoped that the boys find literature both relevant and enjoyable, opening new worlds and new modes of understanding.



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HISTORY - Miss Bryan

History at OLMC is taught with a Catholic outlook. Presenting history with scholarly texts while shining the light of Divine Providence on its progress helps students to grow intellectually and spiritually in their love and knowledge of God and His Creation. With history, students develop a fuller Catholic understanding and appreciation of how the Church has made an impact on history and human civilization from Roman times through to the Middle Ages and into modern times where students need to understand that all things unfold in a context, and all for God's greater glory.

Miss Bryan answers student inquiries via her trusty cartography wall.

ART - Miss Valerie Lesica

The Art Program at OLMC Academy focuses on instilling a broad foundation of both artistic skill and understanding of art theory and history, both within a Catholic perspective. Artistic skill is honed in the upper grades with emphasis on students injecting meaning and depth within the visual presentations of their work - the highest levels of craftsmanship are expected in production and output. As the art student progresses, he is given more freedom to choose the subject matter and artistic mediums for each project. The student is encouraged to give his input and ideas for creative projects which, if approved, can even be done as class unit and help strengthen everyone's portfolio. Upon graduation, not only has the student attained an artistic formation, he will have developed his creativity while gaining the ability to appreciate good art.



Miss Lesica explains the theory behind a future art project to 11th and 12th grade students.

LATIN - Father Peter Scott

Latin is vital in Catholic education not only for the liturgy, history, teaching and unity of the Church but for its logic and precision, which is essential to the clear thinking characteristic of Catholic philosophy and theology. The obligatory study of Latin at Our Lady of Mount Carmel starts in 5th grade, and continues until 12th grade. The method is that of Hans Orberg, *Lingua Latina per se illustrate*, and has as its objective to introduce the student to Latin as an ancient but living language, not dead, as many people think. It is spoken from the very beginning of the classes, and the student will constantly write sentences and compositions in Latin, rather than simply translating into English and trying to understand grammatical concepts, as in other methods. The goal is to learn to read, speak and write classical Latin comfortably and easily. Facility with liturgical Latin and ecclesiastical Latin follow. Presently there are four classes of Latin for grades 7 – 12, taught by Fathers Scott & May, Miss Bryan and Mr. Thomas Zepf, depending upon the level of Latin already attained.

FRENCH - Father Peter Scott

Canada being a bilingual country, the study of French is essential to any education. French is a modern language, and a very Catholic one, on account of the literature, poetry, history, theology, culture that exist in the French language. Here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the study of French starts in 5th & 6th grades, and is obligatory through High School. The textbook used is by G. Mauger and is all in French. It forces the students to think in French, as the exercises are all in French. Conversation, grammar, and culture are all well covered. The goal is to be able to converse in French and read French literature, starting with listening to the sermons and reading the works of Archbishop Lefebvre in the original French. Presently we have three classes of French in the high school, beginners taught by Mr. Matthew Zepf, those with only one or two years of French taught by Mrs. Teresa Zepf, and the advanced class taught by Father Scott.



The High School Boys undergo basketball drills under the exuberant tutelage of Father May.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Father Dominic May

A healthy mind is assisted greatly by a healthy body. Our weekly sessions in Physical Education expose our students to a number of sports along with the rules and skills necessary for enjoyment of the game, and advancement in their play. Thanks to generous benefactors, we have the necessary equipment for most of our needs in the P.E. program. Over the years, I have noted increased skill and zeal for the game in many of the students. Determination, interest in advancement, and true skill-development, are really the focus of these weekly meetings, and have a universally good effect, as one can imagine. These sessions also allow the student, by the mode of competition, to develop good social habits and positive reactions to winning and losing, thus providing also an occasion for the development of virtue.

GRADE 7 & 8 RELIGION - Father Dominic May

At the Junior-High level, I prepare the student for a deeper penetration into his faith. Unlike elementary catechesis, a student must begin not only to memorize and reproduce the required information when called upon, but also to understand and apply the principles. Students at the grade 7-8 levels use the Baltimore no. 3 Catechism, with commentary by Rev. Father Connell. The additional commentary, scripture quotations and study of this catechism offers the student a penetrating view of the Creed, the Commandments, the Sacraments, etc., and helps him to form a 'Catholic mind.' Lesson review questions are designed to challenge the student, and to test his understanding. The proximate object of the course is to cover the catechism more or less in the space of two years.

GRADE 7 & 8 MATH AND SCIENCE - Mr. Thomas Zepf

Confidence with Maths and Sciences is of the utmost importance for young men when entering the job market. As a student myself - nearing completion of my Masters of Education - I believe that education must meet the demands of the times and the job market. Canadian students are increasingly choosing private schools and advanced placement programs; our students need to be equipped to deal with this competition. This year I have worked with Fr. Scott to bring about changes so that the seventh and eighth grade students are better prepared for the rigors of our high school curriculum. We have new Cambridge preparatory



Mr. Thomas Zepf overseeing in-class 7th grade math exercises.

textbooks, ebook worksheets, and the old Saxon texts for detailed instructions and self-learning. My focus is to find where a student is at, then to introduce a method of learning that meets his needs while challenging him in an environment that involves the persistent active presence of the teacher and ready encouragement.

GRADE 8 ENGLISH - Miss Rugman

The English program for 8th grade students is designed to complete the English language foundation needed for high school. There is an intensive grammatical review to ensure that the students have a grasp of the very basic tools needed for writing as well as the in-depth study of the essay and its format. There is also the introduction of more difficult works of literature to better transition the class into high school. Poetry rounds out the course; it is memorized, analyzed, discussed, and imitated so that the students will not only be exposed to a beautiful form of expression, but will also learn to see different aspects of the world through the author's eyes.



Mrs. Paraschuk teaching the High School Girls a Math lesson.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS MATH AND CHEMISTRY - Mrs. Paraschuk

The High School Girls presently use the Saxon Math curriculum, which covers algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Saxon Math inculcates mathematical fundamentals, vital for further studies in the sciences as well as non-mathematical disciplines, such as psychology and sociology, where research involves statistics.

This year the High School Girls' Chemistry class follows the Wile textbook *Exploring Creation with Chemistry*. The textbook is inclusive, covering the very basics, from the introductory explanation of atoms and molecules, to balancing chemical equations, to learning about heat and energy and atomic structure. With each new lesson, the student receives concept review and practice problems to better master the important quantitative skills offered. Experiments are carried out to help learn and place emphasis on the lesson concepts in a very hands-on manner.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ENGLISH EXPRESSION - Miss Rugman

This program is designed to teach the girls to talk, write, and carry themselves in a manner befitting a Catholic young lady. The course begins in 9th Grade where the students' grammar skills are reinforced to ensure that they have the foundation needed for correct expression. From 10th through 12th grade, the students are taught to express themselves in all forms from essays to poetry to dramatic works to debates. This program teaches them not only to express themselves properly, but also gives them the ability to identify fallacies in speeches, essays, debates and other forms of expression. At the completion of this course, the students are able to enter any field of study or employment with the tools needed to express themselves in a clear and understandable manner.



Miss Rugman instructs her 8th grade class in good writing.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ENGLISH LITERATURE - Miss Rugman

This four-year program immerses students in the great ancient and modern literary masterworks, to both educate and delight them. They discover the ideas and messages of great authors, ideas and messages that still resonate today and which can be applied to their lives. This knowledge will be better retained and appreciated for having been received through literature. The students will also be able to improve their writing skills for "what you read is how you will write." By the end of 12th grade, the students will have a natural appreciation for great literature as well as the ability to identify the difference between great and indifferent works.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS HISTORY - Miss Rugman

The four year history program presents the story of mankind, combining his interaction with God and with other creatures. Through their observation of history, students will develop a greater sympathy for mankind, a broader vision of life, moral strength, a lively faith and a greater confidence in God. Through the study of ancient to modern times, the students will learn the philosophy of life through the examples of those who have lived before us. This program will also strengthen in the students their love for their country, their gratitude towards God's Providence, and their love and loyalty towards Holy Mother Church. By the end of 12th grade, the students will have a clear and objective view of the story of mankind with the knowledge that "those ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it."



Father May reading a 7th & 8th grade Catechism lesson.



An after school chess showdown.



The Boys Basketball poses after a tournament.