

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What type of environment does Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy provide?

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy provides a safe, loving, nurturing, respectful atmosphere to all students and families, preschool through 8th grade, that it services. We are dedicated to the well-being of each individual and see everyone as a gift from God to be respected and loved.

2. What role does religion play in the school curriculum?

- Faith is lived out every minute of every day at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. We hold each student to their calling to be Christ-like. In addition to daily religion classes, your child will have many opportunities to pray throughout the day. The students plan and participate in the Mass once a week and celebrate special religious events throughout the entire year. There is special sacramental training for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. The students also participate in several service projects throughout the year. In addition, 8th grade has a formal service program in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

3. How do I know your curriculum will prepare my child for high school?

- First, our curriculum is aligned with the Illinois State Learning Standards. It is important to us that our students learn the material they need at each level. In addition, our students have a history of success at the high school and college levels. Many of our alumni return to thank us for how well we have prepared them for their higher education.

4. What are the hours of the school day and is there a before and after school program?

- Students can begin arriving at school at 7:40 with the final bell indicating the beginning of school at 8:00. We have an Early Bird before care program that runs from 7:00-7:40. Our school day ends at 3:00. Our after school care program runs from 3:00-5:30 on all full days of school. We do not have an after school program on early out days.

5. Can my child ride the bus to school?

- If you are a resident of East Moline, your child can be ride the bus to school free of charge to the family.

6. How large are the class sizes?

- The average class size ratio at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy is 16:1.

7. Do you offer an athletics program?

- Our sports program begins in the 5th grade and continues through the 8th grade. The students can participate in volleyball, track, basketball, tennis, and cross country. We have a no-cut policy so that all students can explore their gifts from God.

8. What is the cost to educate my child at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy?

- Based on the expenditures of the school and the number of students enrolled, the actual cost to educate a student is just over \$5,000 per year. If you belong to a partnering parish of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, your tuition is as follows:

Per Year	Per Month	Per Week	Per Day	Per Hour
\$3175	\$317.50	\$75.60	\$18.04	\$2.58

9. Are there scholarships and financial assistance?

- We have both financial assistance available to every family and a diocesan Spalding scholarship. To learn more about these programs, inquire in the school office.

10. Can my child attend Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy if my family is not a member of one of the partner parishes?

- Yes. If you are not a member of one of our partner parishes, your tuition would be the actual cost to educate a student. This figure is calculated each year when the budget is developed. If you are not a member of one of our partner parishes, you would also not qualify for financial assistance.

11. Are there fine arts at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy?

- Not only do students participate in art through their own classroom experience, but we have a formal music curriculum. In addition, we have a well-known and excellent drama department.

12. What technology resources are available to my child?

- Our Lady of Grace has an updated computer lab and computers in every classroom. It also has four SMART boards and interactive clickers. The Our Lady of Grace staff is committed to integrating technology throughout the entire school day.

13. Are there preschool opportunities available?

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy offers a full and half day preschool program for three and four year olds.

14. What type of lunch program is at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy?

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy participates in the Illinois Lunch program. This allows us to offer well-balanced hot lunches to all of our students. It also allows families to qualify for free and reduced lunches through the state.

15. Are the teachers qualified?

- The Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy faculty is certified through the state of Illinois and holds at least a BA or BS in Education. Our faculty is also committed to meeting the 120 hour continuing education credits the state requires every five years. Each faculty member recognizes the importance of being life-long learners.

16. Do the teachers regularly assign homework?

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy believes that homework is a very important part of an elementary student's school experience. We are aware that there is a fine

line between just the right amount of homework and too much homework in this twenty-first century world. Research states that a good homework equation would be ten minutes per grade level per night starting in Kindergarten. For example, an 8th grader should have approximately 90 minutes of homework per night.

17. What opportunities are there for parents to get involved?

- Parents are a key component to the success of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy and the success of each student. First, giving time to your child's academic needs every day ensures your child better success in school. Second, parents can volunteer in the classroom, on field trips and service projects, in the lunchroom, on the playground, in the library, etc. Most importantly, you have the biggest voice in the school through participation in our parent organization, the Family and Faculty Association (FFA).

18. How do I enroll, take a tour, or receive more information about Our Lady of Grace?

- Please call the school office at 309-755-9771 or stop by our school at 603- 18th Avenue, East Moline, IL 61244. We would be glad to answer any questions, send you any information, or give you a tour of the school!