

## **Why should my family become part of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy?**

**Link: To learn more...**

The **Benefits** of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy:

### Our Christian Values

At Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy your child will experience an education that is centered in our Catholic Christian faith. Spiritual and moral development permeates the entire curriculum in each of our classrooms. Catholic or non-Catholic, your child will grow in body, mind, and soul.

### Academics

Catholic schools are renowned for academic excellence around the nation. Students in Catholic schools consistently score above average nationally on standardized tests. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy aligns the curriculum with the Illinois Learning Standards and utilizes innovative techniques so that we can ensure that our students are getting the best education possible, while continuing to stay part of the national statistic.

### Community Service

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy students model their dedication to community service each and every day. Our student body enjoys giving a helping hand to our community, the surrounding communities, the nation, and the world. In 2009-2010, students packaged over 1800 meals for starving children through Kids Against Hunger and raised nearly \$1000 for the recovery efforts in Haiti after the earthquake. These, as well as many other opportunities for service, are part of the benefit your student will experience with us.

### Continued Education

In a Catholic school, a child is encouraged to further his/her education through high school and beyond. The total number of Catholic high school graduates who continue their education is approximately 97 percent. Many graduates of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy go on to become valedictorians and salutatorians in their high schools as well as Illinois State Scholars. Last year alone, we had three of our students in the top ten at Alleman High School with the valedictorian being one of our own! Several of our students have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, educators, CEOs, etc.

### Athletics

The services we offer our students go beyond the classroom. We have athletics for both girls and boys in grades 5-8. Most of our students play more than one sport because we have a no-cut policy. Our students can explore their talents in a safe and encouraging environment.

### Drama Department

It is our goal at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy to tune in to every child's creative side. We work together to perform at all grade levels. Preschool through eighth grade students have the opportunity to discover their gifts of expression through drama. Our students have the advantage of performing on a stage with stage lights and a theatre sound system!

### Parental Involvement

Parent involvement plays a critical role in Catholic schools such as Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. As a parent, there are many opportunities to volunteer- in the classroom, in the lunchroom, on the playground, for field trips, etc. We also have an active parent organization which meets monthly, builds community through family activities, and conducts various fundraisers to help support specific programs for our students throughout the school year.

### Committed Faculty

At Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy our principal, Ms. Linda Vander Vennet, has assembled a wonderful team of faculty and staff. All our teachers are state certified, highly qualified, well-prepared, and eager to educate your child. Teachers at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy embrace the opportunity for continued education. Each teacher completes 20 hours or more of professional development each year! This group of professionals is committed to your child's academic success and overall personal wellness.

## **Who Are We**

Our Students: In joining Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, you join a community of students in grades Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade coming from all parts of the Quad City area. Bus transportation to and from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy is offered for our East Moline families through East Moline School District 37.

Our Learning Environment: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy provides a friendly, relaxed, family-like atmosphere of learning for your child. Your child will join a community of learners who support each other. Just like a family, students, faculty, staff, and parents work together to build positive relationships.

Our Safety Preparedness: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy has an emergency preparedness plan in place in order to respond quickly and efficiently to possible emergencies. You are welcome to review our school's safety plan. Our faculty and staff are trained on a regular basis on what role they play in the unlikely event an emergency occurs. Our school has a very good relationship with the local fire and police departments so we are protected if an emergency occurs.

Our Satisfied Stakeholders: We encourage you to talk to students and parents about their experience at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. We are confident that you will hear that the school delivers on its educational and faith promises. (Click here to see what some of them have to say.)

Our Catholic Identity: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy's student body is comprised of students from the Catholic faith tradition as well as students from all faith traditions. All our students participate in liturgies that include Mass and prayer services, classroom prayer/reflection, and preparation for sacraments. Students at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy live out their faith in everything they do and participate in several service projects throughout the school year.