

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

Last year we introduced a new, school-wide House system into the curriculum at OLS. We are modeling our system after the original program developed by award-winning education pioneer Ron Clark. The Ron Clark Academy House system in Atlanta has been the gold standard and has been adapted by hundreds of schools since 2007. The general purpose of a House system is to promote a positive, unified, character-focused school environment that compliments the academics. We are overjoyed to lead our students in grades 5th through 8th as they grow in faith and character, form new friendships, and work together to accomplish a myriad of goals through continual participation in activities and service within our school and local community.

The OLS HOUSE program includes 6 Houses rooted in our Catholic faith. Our theme is 6 Houses - 1 Home. Each House name is based on an apparition of our Blessed Mother Mary and is represented by a particular color. The Houses are.....FATIMA, LOURDES, GUADALUPE, LA SALETTE, KIBEHO, and GENAZZANO.

The House Committee prayed over the process of randomly sorting students to keep the experience authentic and called on the Holy Spirit for guidance. Students were then assigned into Houses (each House is a combination of evenly distributed 5th - 8th graders), and, today, they learned their House assignment during a fun sorting celebration. This will be their House for the **remainder** of their time at OLS. Please keep in mind, the purpose of the House system is not to put "friends" together but to encourage the formation of new relationships and strengthen existing ones. In addition, each student was provided with a t-shirt for their specific House to wear **every Wednesday** to House meetings unless otherwise noted. House shirts will be worn with uniform bottoms. If your child needs to replace their House shirt, you will be able to purchase a shirt from the school for \$10.00.

Please encourage your child to share with you all about this wonderful program and all the challenges and activities we do each week in HOUSE.

We are overjoyed to have such an innovative, educational experience as part of our school! We are equally eager to watch this program flourish, create a meaningful school culture, build camaraderie, and foster life-long memories at OLS!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dorn and the HOUSE Committee

OLS...Nothing But The BEST!!! **6 HOUSES. 1 HOME.**