



National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1982



Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow! Our Lady of Victory (OLV) is a dynamic Catholic school in Washington, DC. It attracts students from a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds due to its location and reputation; students thrive in one cohesive community.

While most students are Catholic, other faiths are represented. Eighteen percent of students claim a second language and ten percent of students receive support for learning differences. This diversity and the warm, nurturing environment make OLV a special place.

All stakeholders are committed to a partnership preparing students to learn today and lead tomorrow. Parents serve as integral roles as committee leaders and volunteers. Distinctive cultural and business backgrounds provide varied perspectives enriching the community.

The faculty is highly qualified and invested in students, going above and beyond what is required. OLV is blessed with a determined principal and an administrative staff providing endless support to all.

Small class sizes allow for individualized attention. A rigorous standards-based curriculum including advancement opportunities prepares students for challenges in high school and thereafter. Instruction is research-based, informed by data, integrated with technology and varied and differentiated to meet learning styles and differences. Teachers utilize flexible grouping, co-teaching and frequent varied assessments. Enrichment opportunities are available during and after school, including exciting field trip experiences.

OLV's Catholic tradition is the foundation of its purpose, mission and vision. The belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God, worthy of respect with unique gifts and called to an individual mission is OLV's heart and soul.

Source:

http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/winning/16dc233pv_our_lady_of_victory_school.html

Award Years 2007 & 2016 Exemplary High Performing Schools

Our Lady of Victory School
4755 Whitehaven Parkway, NW
Washington DC 20007-1558
(202) 337-1421

Mrs. Sheila Ann Martinez, Principal

Mission

Our Lady of Victory School is committed to providing a Catholic learning environment that promotes scholarly excellence and fosters moral and spiritual growth.

Student Demographics

- > Black/African American: 17%
- > White: 62%
- > Hispanic: 10%
- > Asian: 4%
- > Two or more races: 7%
- > ELL: 2%
- > Economically Disadvantaged: 6%



Getting to Know OLV Principal SHEILA MARTINEZ

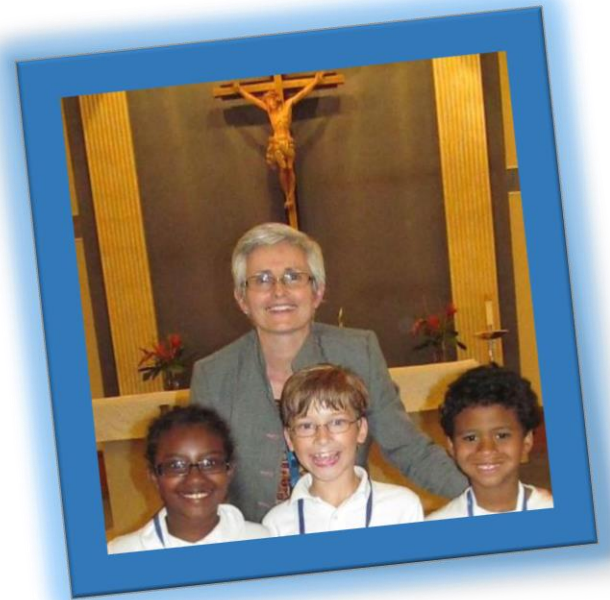
Born: England, UK

Resides: Maryland, USA

Years in education: 25+

Favorite food: chocolate

Ideal vacation: visiting family in England



It's never difficult to grab 2, 5 or 10 minutes of Mrs. Martinez's time: whether she is outside the front door of the school greeting students every morning, eating lunch in the cafeteria with students and teachers or in the parking lot helping with car line, Mrs. Martinez is easily approachable and happy to chat about formal school issues or fun family tidbits. But as warm, genuine and loving as Mrs. Martinez is as a person, she is also a fiercely dedicated and highly qualified educator.

Mrs. Martinez, as a school leader, what are the most important factors that you think contribute to the success of you and OLV?

I may be the most obvious and visible school leader but I am far from the only school leader here at OLV.

I view all those involved in the education of students as leaders and that includes teachers, parents, community members as well as students. As such, we are all entrusted with decision making power that needs to be firmly rooted in the best interests of students through a genuine love and care for each child.

I am only as effective as the positive and productive relationships formed between these partners and each of their roles are equally as important as mine as principal. We all have the ability to be a positive influence advancing our school's mission and we all have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people.

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You are a parent, a former student, a former teacher and a school principal- how do these life roles influence your professional life today?

All of us as parents are the first teachers of their children with vital roles in the educational process and it's a life-long commitment that ultimately influences everything we do in life. Teachers are the instructional leaders in the classroom; as life-long learners they are the driving force in student growth and achievement. As a parent, former teacher and current principal, I am always serving as a role model for students to hopefully become life-long learners who are open to growth, willing to take risks, make mistakes, reflect and always move forward in life.

We could talk at length about the academic excellence of OLV but as principal of a Catholic school, what is your proudest achievement?

As a Catholic school, OLV is committed to the education of the whole child: academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. A student's character and the person he/she will become is equally if not more important than his/her academic achievement.

The Catholic identity of our school is its foundation and the main source of its growth and success. Imparting on each student the message that they are each a child of God, they are loved by God and are here to discover, utilize and share their unique and special gifts is what warms my heart each and every day as a parent, as a Catholic and as an educator.

Next time: Our Pastor, Father David Fitz-Patrick