

Frequently Asked Questions – Our Lady of the Assumption School

School Philosophy & Vision

Our Lady of the Assumption School (OLA), as a faith community, is committed to excellence in Catholicity and in all areas that promote the development of the whole child to his or her full potential. OLA strives to develop Christian leaders, responsible citizens and life-long learners.

Our Lady of the Assumption School seeks to develop the child spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically, culturally, and socially.

Curriculum

OLA is an Independent Catholic Elementary School. The school is governed by the Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA), Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) and the Ministry of Education. In collaboration with these organizations, Our Lady of Assumption School strives to adapt the best teaching practices to enable your children in their faith and academic development. With Religion and Academics as the core of our teaching, we support learning through various programs including Physical Education, Music, Art, French and Healthy Living.

Our Learning Assistance team works collaboratively with parents and teachers to ensure that the needs of students' requiring extra help and attention are addressed.

To view the BC's Education Plan, visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Parish Education Committee (PEC) & Parish

The Parish Education Committee (PEC) is a group comprised of 7 parishioners – 5 of whom are elected, and 2 are appointed by the Pastor. The PEC obtains its authority from the CISVA Board of Directors and is required to carry out the policies and procedures as set by the Board. The Pastor and PEC work together to ensure day-to-day operations of the school are met and to take part in the spiritual direction of the school. The PEC is headed by our Pastor.

Class Composition

OLA provides one inclusive class in each grade from Kindergarten to Grade 7 with approximately 30 students. Children entering Kindergarten should be 5 years old by December 31st of the year they enter. Classes that require support may have additional educational assistants.

Tuition

As an Independent School, OLA receives a portion of Ministry funding. The remainder of the fees are supplemented by family paid tuition. There are several factors that may affect tuition. The rate is based on whether or not families are active parishioners at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, if you contribute to the Parent Participation Program or if you are a non-parishioner and non-participating. Please review last year's rates <https://www.assumptionschool.com/tuition-and-registration-dates/>

Tuition Tax Receipts

An annual tuition tax receipt is issued for a portion of your tuition. The amount is calculated by CISVA and receipts will be sent to families in February.

Amenities

Our amenities consist of a Gymnasium, Library\Computers, Sports field, Playground, Table tennis and primary Basketball court, a Music room and an Atrium for religious studies.

Uniforms

Our uniforms show pride in our faith and in our school.

All students should arrive at school with their school sweaters/vests ready for the day. Sweaters and vests are always required for school Mass, assemblies, special presentations and fieldtrips. Our uniforms should be in presentable condition, clean, tidy and without tears. We want our students to present the Best Us possible!

Uniforms are available through Neat Uniforms located at 3738 Parker St., Burnaby. For required uniform specifics visit <https://www.assumptionschool.com/uniforms/>

Hours of Instruction

Our daily schedule

8:30am Student Supervision begins

8:45am Morning Prayer and Instruction begins

10:30 – 10:45am Recess

12:00 – 12:55pm Noon Recess

12:25 – 12:50pm Lunch (Note: If weather is inclement, lunch will be eaten from 12:00 –12:25pm followed by recess from 12:25 – 12:50pm)

12:50pm Instruction Begins

3:00pm Dismissal

3:30pm Student Supervision ends

Note: School Mass is held each week on Wednesdays at 9:00am.

Office Hours

Administration office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm excluding statutory holidays. Please update the office administration regarding a student's absence, tuition fees and/or emergency contact information.

Drop Off & Pick Up

Parents are welcome to walk their children into the school or they can be dropped off and picked up at the back of our school in our drive thru. The gate is open for drop off at 8:30am to 8:45am and again for afternoon pick up at 2:50 -3:15pm.

Our Lady of Assumption School does not have a bus.

Before & After School Care

It is the responsibility of families to arrange their own before and after school care.

Safety Policies

Emergency preparedness is very important to us and students learn and practice drills including evacuation, drop, cover & hold and hold & secure.

Criminal record checks are required for all school volunteers.

Communication

Education is a community responsibility and takes collective and collaborative action between school, home, and community. OLA school keeps parents informed of school information and activities through a school newsletter and updates to our website. Teachers communicate with parents through Seesaw, emails and parent teacher interviews.

Extracurricular Activities

Sports

At Our Lady of Assumption School, we encourage all interested boys and girls of varying talents and abilities to join a sports team. Team sports are a place to learn the sport, practice the skills, accept each other's abilities (both weaknesses and strengths), make friends and have fun playing the sport. We hold the Fair Play philosophy (from the BC Amateur Sports Philosophy). The sports offered are Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Track & Field, Badminton and Flag Football.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is offered to students in Grades K through 4 and they meet once per week in small groups with a certified Catechist.

Arts

Taking part in Arts activities is crucial for the aesthetic and cultural development of our children. The benefits of a good arts education are many – improved confidence, improved self-esteem, enhanced sense of community and even improved math performance. There is a Music Program, Band Program, Primary and Intermediate Choir, Liturgy Choir and Concert Performances.

Community Outreach

We take pride in teaching our students how to make a positive impact to the well-being of our community. Throughout various fundraisers, our school participates in and supports local and world charities including:

- Terry Fox Foundation
- Signal Hill
- Canadian Veterans
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Variety Club Children's Charity

Application Process

Please print and complete your application forms from our website. Once complete, include a \$50.00 cheque made payable to Our Lady of the Assumption School and drop the application off at our school. There is a brass mail slot on the wall to the left hand side of the door for drop off. We will confirm that we have received your application and that everything required is attached. Applications are due January 26th. 8

Applicant that are not accepted will be returned their \$50.00 application fee. Applications will be reviewed by the Pastor and Principal. Interviews will be set within two weeks. One parent and the student must attend the interview with the Pastor and Principal. After the interview you will receive a phone call regarding the next steps.