

Farewell from the Principal...

OLA 2018-2022



Dear Alumnae,
This is my final time writing to you as the Principal of Our Lady Academy. I am very proud of OLA and all that has been accomplished during my five years as principal. It has been such a blessing to my family and to myself to have had OLA in our lives. When I came to OLA, I was just beginning my administrative career. I was hired as the assistant principal which I thought was going to be a fantastic way for me to get some administrative experience before possibly moving into the role of principal. Little did I know that just two short months later, I would become the interim principal. I felt so completely overwhelmed, but everyone in the OLA community was so supportive. The faculty and staff were always willing to help and were very understanding when I just was not sure of an answer. Along with faculty and staff, parents and students were unbelievably welcoming and kind to me.

As time went on, I learned more and more and became more confident in the role; confident enough that I decided to apply for the principalship. I am so thankful for how things turned out and that I was given the opportunity to lead OLA. God put me exactly where I needed to be at that time in my life.

Now, God has shown me that it is time to focus on my family. Although I love OLA and will definitely miss all of the students, I am thankful I am able to be a "mom". As most of you know, I have three daughters. My oldest, Macy, is 20 and will begin her junior year at The University of Southern Mississippi in August. My middle daughter, Amy, is nearly 17 and will be a senior next school year. My youngest, Julie, is 15 and will be a sophomore next year. I am fortunate enough to be able to focus on my children as they are winding down their high school career and moving onto college.

I will leave you with one final quote that perfectly sums up my feelings:

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." ~ Winnie the Pooh

LEIGH CHAPMAN '92 NAMED OLA'S 2022 VICE PRINCIPAL



We, the faculty members, students, families, and alumnae are so excited to have Leigh as the Vice Principal beginning the 2022-23 school year. Leigh has accomplished so much as a Faculty Member, Sponsor, Alumnae Representative, Fund Raiser Chairman, Disciplinarian, Teacher, Coach, and one of the most active and loyal OLA supporters.

Leigh has been a part of the Crescent family from 1988 as a 9th grader to 1992 as a proud OLA graduate. She received her Bachelor of Science and an MEd Elementary Education from William Carey in addition to an MEd in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon.

"Miss Chapman's commitment to OLA and experience will be a great addition to the administrative team and to moving the school forward while holding fast to our traditions," said Father Michael O'Connor.

OLA WELCOMES A NEW LEADER - JENNIFER LEE SEYMOUR



It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome our new principal, Jennifer Lee Seymour. Mrs. Seymour will begin her leadership role in the 2022-2023 school year. She is a former Crescent as a 7th grader in 1985 through her Freshmen year in 1988. She graduated from Bay High in 1991. Mrs. Seymour has served as a Catholic school principal, public school principal in both the elementary and middle school settings, as well as Director of Profession Development and Curriculum on the High School level.

Mrs. Seymour received both her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is married to Will Seymour and is the mother of three children; Wes Seymour (Destiny), Jillian Seymour Comer (Caden) and Walker Seymour. She is the proud grandmother of Leighton Seymour.

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT



OLA CLASS 2018 OVERACHIEVERS



Camille Martin, '18, Kiley Jacob '18, and Sarah Deano '18 received a 2022 Marcus Elvis Taylor Memorial Medal, the University of Mississippi's highest academic award.



Lydia Cates '18 graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Mississippi's Business School with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Healthcare Management.



Camille Martin '18 was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honors organization in the liberal arts.

OLA TRADITIONS CONTINUE THROUGH OUR LEGACIES

2022 May Crowning



Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother, patroness of Our Lady Academy and role model was crowned by senior, Sarah 'Abby' Whaley, daughter of Joanna Logan Whaley '89.

2022 Senior Farewell Mass and Alumnae Induction



Alumnae guardians of the Class of 2022 join in the celebration of the seniors' final OLA Mass. Alums are Anna Burdette Taylor '90/Ella Taylor; Mary Ann Boos Klein '76/Natalie Klein; Leigh Chapman '92/Caleigh Chapman; Jody Triche Mortillaro '86/Regan Mortillaro; Jennifer Dempsey Whitney '88/Claire Whitney; Joanna Logan Whaley '89/Abby Whaley; Liz Findley Holman '90/Lauren Holman; and Remy Bezou Sanders '98/Gabrielle Sanders.

2022 Ring Ceremony



Jeanne Williams Baxter '92 with Rebecca Baxter

Diane Meeks Capo '89 with Hailey Capo

Ginger Felder Cook '97 with Hutton Scharp

Monica Maillho Ernst '93 with Caroline Maillho

Amy Lee Ivey '93 with Catherine Ivey

Sierra McArthur '19 with Ava McArthur

Shirley Schmidt with Abigail Schmidt

2022 Valedictorian



Ella Linwood Taylor

Ella Taylor, daughter of Anna Burdette Taylor '90, was named OLA's 2022 Valedictorian. Ella will attend Georgetown University where she will be studying biology and plans to attend medical school after completion of her undergraduate degree.

2022 Salutatorian



Colleen Rose Nolan

Colleen Nolan, granddaughter of Susan Holcomb Ritten SJA '63, was named OLA's 2022 Salutatorian. Colleen will attend The University of Mississippi in the fall and plans to major in chemical engineering.

THANK YOU MARILYN FOR LEADING OLA FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS

ALUMS you made the 2022 Crawfish Boil so much fun!



Marilyn,

The OLA faculty, students, parents, and alumnae appreciate having you as our leader and guide over these past years. Under your direction, we have successfully teamed against severe thunderstorms, snowstorms, hurricanes, tornados, epidemics, and last but not least, COVID. From your commitment and perseverance, we withstood so many of these adversities as a team. We became stronger in our faith and ourselves because of your loyalty to OLA and your OLA family.

You have accomplished so much in these past years. This year you launched OLA's 50th anniversary with a fun-filled celebration. You helped OLA successfully rebound after the COVID outbreak and united students and teachers, bringing all back to the classrooms. Also, during COVID, you managed to afford the graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021 memorable events. You spearheaded so many of our celebrations and assured that we continued our life long traditions such as Mercy Day, Big Sis/Lil Sis, Grandparents Day, Christmas Lunches, Senior Christmas Plays, Intramurals, Proms, Ring Ceremonies, Promotions, and Graduations.

Marilyn, when you leave as OLA principal, an integral piece will be missing from the Crescent family. However, we are happy that you can now experience how wonderful and stress-free it is to be a part of all the OLA traditions as a mother of an OLA senior. We wish you the very best and hope you enjoy your early retirement years.

Love,
Your OLA Family

