

# THE RAIDER REPORT

News From OLA School

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## Unfolding the Future

**From WASC to 190-day calendar, a program of improvement**

**In an interview with the Raider Report, Principal Bernadette Boyle outlines OLA's plans for a decade of educational growth.**

The last two months have been exceptionally busy for OLA. In February, the parish school celebrated the culmination of almost two years of preparation for its WCEA/WASC accreditation. According to Ms. Boyle, this was a highly successful endeavor that allowed OLA students, parents, faculty and staff to demonstrate how well its unique and "highly effective" education has always been and now continues to serve the community of Claremont and surrounding cities.

In addition, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has signaled its expectation for its elementary schools to extend the school year. This sudden development sent ripples through OLA and other Catholic school communities. Now, Ms. Boyle outlines the school's plans for enacting the school-year extension and the role the parish and school community will play.

### Parent meeting April 18 with Dr. Kevin Baxter

Ms. Boyle, Fr. Charles Ramirez and Dr. Kevin Baxter, superintendent of the Los Angeles Archdiocese schools, invite parents and parishioners to join them in the Auditorium for a presentation on the 2011-12 extended instruction calendar. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. For information, call the school office, (909) 626-7135.

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#### Q. How many days will the school add in 2011-12?

The archdiocese has strongly recommended that all elementary schools move toward a 200-day school year, 20 more than most of its schools now offer. OLA will add 10 days in 2011-12 as a step toward this goal, allowing the school time to develop appropriate curricular changes and assess the impact on families.

#### Q. Why add more days?

In January 2011, Dr. Kevin Baxter, superintendent for Elementary Schools of Los Angeles Archdiocese, Cardinal Mahoney and Sr. Mary Elizabeth Galt, the chancellor of the Archdiocese, announced that the elementary schools would extend the school year. While the archdiocese has acknowledged that it is unable to mandate this type of

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## DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Name of School: <b>Our Lady of the Assumption</b>					City: <b>Claremont</b>					Year: <b>2011-2012</b>																				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	School Days	Inservice/Retreat	Holidays & Breaks	Pupil Free Days	School Closed					
JULY, 2011					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	0		1	0	20
AUGUST	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31			8	3	0	2	10
SEPTEMBER				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	21		1	0	
OCTOBER	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31					21		0	0	
NOVEMBER		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30			16		3	3	
DECEMBER				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	12		10	0	
JANUARY, 2012	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31				20		2	0	
FEBRUARY			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29			20		1	0	
MARCH				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	21	1	0	0	
APRIL	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30					15		6	0	
MAY		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		20		1	2	
JUNE					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	16		0	5	
<b>Totals:</b>																				<b>190</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>						
Opening Date:		8/22/2011		The school's calendar includes:																190 Instructional days, 3 inservice days		School in session		190						
Closing Date:		6/22/2012																		and 1 full day faculty/staff retreat		Inservice		4						
Faculty Retreat Date:		3/23/2012		End of trimester																		Holidays / Breaks		25						
Faculty Inservice Date:		8/17/2011		Holidays: school not in session; not transferable																		Pupil Free		12						
Faculty Inservice Date:		8/18/2011		Flexible break days: can be moved depending on local schedule																		Closed		30						
Faculty Inservice Date:		8/19/2011		First 2 days of school 12:30pm dismissal																		Weekends		104						
				Last day 10:30am dismissal																		Total		365						
July 1, 2011		Academic & Fiscal Years begin										January 29 - February 4, 2012					Catholic Schools Week													
July 4, 2011		<u>Independence Day</u>										February 20, 2012					<u>Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)</u>													
September 5, 2011		<u>Labor Day</u>										February 22, 2012					Ash Wednesday													
??????		Parent conferences										March 2, 2012					High School Acceptance Letters Mailed													
November 11, 2011		<u>Veterans Day</u> <u>(Thanksgiving Day is a holiday)</u>										March 23-25, 2012					Religious Education Congress													
November 21-25, 2011		Thanksgiving Break										March 30, 2012					Caesar Chavez Day													
Dec.19 - 22, 2011		Christmas Break										<u>April 6 - 13, 2012</u>					<u>Good Friday</u> and Easter Break													
Dec.23 -Jan. 2, 2011		Schools & ACC closed; <u>Christmas &amp; New Year's</u> are holidays										April 11 - 13, 2012					NCEA Convention													
January 16, 2012		<u>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</u>										May 28, 2012					<u>Memorial Day</u>													
January 12, 2012		High School placement test										June 29, 2012					Academic and Fiscal Years conclude													

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initiative, it has been made clear that this is the expectation. Archdiocesan officials based their recommendation on the following:

- The relationship between more substantive, effective time in an academic setting and stronger student performance;
- The greater opportunity for teachers to help students develop in-depth skills and understanding of the standards required by the state and archdiocese
- The virtual elimination of the review period at the start of each school year
- Mitigating the negative affects that summer break of two months can have on student performance:
- International comparative data on student achievement

### Q. Why weren't parents asked first?

While some parents were part of the process, the entire parent body was not asked for input. Initial reaction among teachers and parents was very positive.

Some parents informed the school and parish of their concerns, including the lack of consultation, the financial impact on families and loss of family time during summer. The archdiocese has acknowledged that local schools were not given time to consult thoroughly. That is the main reason why the decision at OLA was made to increase by just 10 days in 2011-12.

### Q. Will parents get a voice?

Yes. It is clear broader consultation is necessary before the school moves to a 200-day calendar, and to more properly acknowledge the role of parents as the primary educators. We will thoroughly explore the impact the change has on family life, especially in regard to the loss of time in the summer and the financial impact.

In addition, OLA will re-form its **consultative school board** after an absence of over 15 years, with the express purpose of serving as a core advisory body representing the school and parish communities. The board will advise on policy decisions, finances, communications, marketing and publicity, facilities, alumni relations and involvement, and especially strategic planning for the next decade.

### Q. Who is responsible for OLA educational policy?

Primary responsibility for the parish school lies with the pastor, who may delegate duties to a school principal. As an archdiocesan school, OLA operates under patronage of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, with their support and guidance. The school is obliged to work closely with the rest of the archdiocese. Locally, Ms. Boyle consults with Fr. Charles Ramirez, teachers, other principals, the parish finance council and finance council committees, which include parents and alumni parents.

## How will the new calendar work?

**Impact on summer break:** Summer 2011 is unaffected, with the usual 10 weeks. School will run from Aug. 22, 2011 to June 22, 2012. Summer 2012 will be eight weeks.

### **What difference will the extra days**

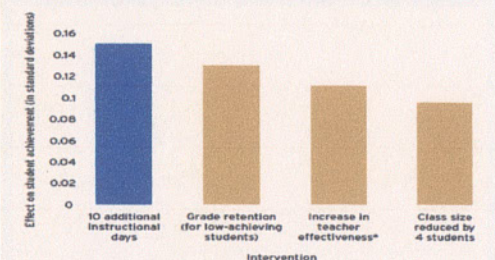
**make:** The teachers and principal have begun to look at each grade level to see where adjustments will make the greatest impact. Specific targets and goals in the core subject areas of math and language arts are being identified; instruction and learning will be either accelerated in these areas or developed and strengthened. We will strengthen instruction and opportunities in areas identified through the review of ITBS scores and from teachers and parents. In addition, we are considering second-language instruction.

### **Will there be fewer minimum days/days**

**off:** Yes. In 2010-11, there were days for deanery school in-service and accreditation preparation. In 2011-12, one in-service day will allow faculty and staff to attend the religious education congress in March. All other days will be held before the students return. Five minimum days (12:30 p.m. dismissal) are planned for: 8/22/11, 8/23/11, 12/16/11, 4/5/12, and 5/10/12. The last day of school is a 10:30 a.m. dismissal. The only other minimum day(s) will be for parent conferences.

More School, More Learning (Figure 1)

The estimated effect for 3rd-grade students of adding 10 days of learning exceeds that of repeating a grade, having a better teacher, or reducing class size.



\* 1.0 standard deviation difference

SOURCES: Hoxby (2000); Marzano and Herlihy (2004); Jacob and Lefgren (2004); Rivkin et al. (2005); Krueger (1999)

# By the numbers

## Who's teaching more than 180 days now?

Among all private elementary and middle schools, the average school year in 2007-08 ran 185 days with 6.4 hours of daily instruction. More than a quarter of all private elementary and middle schools exceed 180 days and many instruct beyond six hours a day — the public school standard. Of the more than 1,885 Catholic schools listed in 2007-08 serving all K-12 levels, just over 10 percent instruct beyond 180 days — with the most intense schedules hitting 234 days and 9 hours a day and 243 days and 6 hours a day.

## Why teach beyond 180 days?

Recent studies have shown increases in instruction time coupled with effective teaching strategies can improve math and reading scores. (See chart on page 3.)

## More math?

A new report by the American Federation of Teachers indicates that American eighth-graders are up to two years behind international peers in learning math. That delay results in an increasing gap as students travel through high school and into college. While not all students are ready for geometry in eighth grade, those who are would benefit from a chance to take more advanced math and science classes in high school.

## Competition for students

Projections by the state Department of Finance's Demographic Research Unit indicate a 4.5 percent growth in school-age children through 2020 before swelling to 13 percent from 2020 to 2030. In other words, competition for students will remain fierce for some time.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENT

Have a school-related event or activity you'd like to advertise? Contact Renee Diepenbrock at (909) 214-6801 or [reneecat@aol.com](mailto:reneecat@aol.com).

## OLA Financial Information

Expenditures (\$)	2009-10	2008-09
Salaries & benefits*	\$1,351,144	\$1,372,337
Payroll Taxes	\$116,788	\$118,316
Textbooks and Software	\$70,466	\$67,668
Building Repairs/Maintenance	\$24,975	\$26,503
Utilities	\$39,500	\$39,915
Student Activities	\$21,036	\$30,756
Capital Improvements	\$83,381	\$27,785
Other expenses	\$119,014	\$118,610
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,826,304</b>	<b>\$1,801,890</b>

\* 25 Full Time, 12 Part Time, incl. School Faculty, Office, Day Care and Support Staff

Tuition cost is relative to enrollment and class sizes	Increase by 100	Increase by 125	Increase by 150	Increase by 220
Enrollment	475	500	525	595
Average class size	28	29	31	35
<b>Cost per child(\$)</b>	<b>\$3,845</b>	<b>\$3,653</b>	<b>\$3,479</b>	<b>\$3,070</b>

## OLA fall enrollment, 1956-2010

