

August 2017

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A few important links to our school website:

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[Volunteering](#)

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[Early Childhood Calendar](#)

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[Forms](#)

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Lead Secretary: Teri Reyhons

teri.reyhons@lourdes.pvt.k12.ia.us

Secretary: Elaine Quinn

elaine.quinn@lourdes.pvt.k12.ia.us

Principal: Jennifer Alongi

jennifer.alongi@lourdes.pvt.k12.ia.us

563-359-3466

School Website

<http://www.lourdescatholic.org>

Or just stop by!

1453 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf

Lourdes Catholic School

H & S Newsletter



A Message from our Principal—Ms. Alongi

Welcome Back!

I hope you had a fun and safe summer! You will be returning to school to our brand-new middle school science lab, new lighting in the gymnasium, new carpeting in the media center, new awnings on the front of the school, and of course new faces!! 67 new families have joined Lourdes, so don't be shy – introduce yourself to anyone you don't recognize and give them a warm welcome!

Another new face in our building is that of Mrs. Becca Ashby, 5th grade homeroom teacher. She was featured in our first Home and School newsletter of the school year.

Our beloved "Big Toy" playground also has seen some new additions – two Buddy Benches and a Gaga Pit! Homeroom teachers will discuss the purpose of the Buddy Benches and introduce the rules for the Gaga Pit. We are grateful to the Girl Scouts for the new benches, and to Eagle Scout Andy Haberkorn for planning and coordinating the construction of the Gaga Pit!

Other changes are being implemented this coming school year as well. Our K-8 school masses have been moved to Tuesdays at 9:00 AM. Fr. Jason and I thought this was best, in light of the fact that K-8 students will be dismissed at 2:30 every Wednesday, a change from recent years. To ensure that instructional time on Wednesdays is minimally impacted, we will enjoy the school mass on Tuesdays, and have added a small "class mass" to Thursdays. More information to follow on when each grade will have their class masses.

Lunch and recess times have been adjusted for the 2017-18 school year as follows:

- 3-4-5 Lunch 11:20-11:40
- 3-4-5 Recess 11:40-12:00
- K-1-2 Lunch 11:50-12:10
- K-1-2 Recess 12:10-12:30
- 6-7-8 Lunch 12:20-12:40
- 6-7-8 Recess 12:40-1:00



Of course, many traditions at Lourdes will remain the same. We still plan to have rosary in October and May, and Penance during Advent and Lent. Lourdes Starry Night, our major fundraising event, has been set again for the first Saturday of March. Drop-off and pick-up at Lourdes will be the same. The last two pages of the [handbook](#) provide diagrams for both drop off and pick up. I will continue to send my "Monday Message" email every Monday to remind you of the happenings for the week ahead. We also will continue to encourage parents to sign up for lunch duty, recess duty, and library assistance. The sign ups will be posted on our webpage soon.

Looking ahead, be aware that Curriculum Night has been scheduled for 6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12th. Please mark your calendars for this event. Teachers will be sharing important information about their expectations for the school year ahead.

Welcome to the start of a new and exciting 2017-2018 school year! May we all enjoy a blessed year!

Ms. Jennifer Alongi, Principal

Welcome Back - A message from our Board of Education President, Karen Moldt

Happy New School Year!

My name is Karen Moldt and I am President of the Board of Education (BOE) this year. In addition to overseeing the administration of the school the BOE also works with the OLOL parish office, Athletic Director, Home & School Board, and various other individuals and groups to provide our students with educational, religious and extracurricular opportunities in a faith based environment. We typically meet the second Thursday of the month during the school year and I encourage you to attend a meeting to get a better understanding of our role and the things we're working on this year.

The other BOE members for this school year are as follows.

Vice President – Maren Stoflet

Secretary – Kris Dersha

Other Members – Father Jason, John Leinart, Mike Puthoff, Donica Mokosak, Dave Reilly, Teresa Heden, Steve McIntosh, Tyler Edwards, Brian Nikulski, Alternate – Toney Lemek

If you ever have any questions about the BOE please don't hesitate to contact me.

God Bless,

Karen



Top five questions about the Board of Education (BOE)

What is the Board of Education? – We oversee the administration, budget, and operation of the school. The board does not handle the day to day operation of the school, rather this is the job of the principal, staff, and teachers. In addition to the school, we also oversee the religious education programs for the Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Who is on the Board of Education? – The voting members of the board are eleven individuals who represent all children attending educational programming at Our Lady of Lourdes. Any Parish member 18 years or older or parent/guardian of a child attending LCS is allowed to serve as a board member. There are a range of ex-officio members of our board too. Our current membership can be found on the LCS website.

When does the Board meet? – We typically meet on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM, but see the website for the specific dates. We send our agenda out to the community at least two days before the meeting. We hold open meetings and anyone can attend. Occasionally we do go into closed session and only elected members participate in this part of our meeting. We usually post our minutes on the website within 2 weeks of our meeting.

Do I have to be on the Board to assist? – The board has subcommittees that work on marketing, grant writing, policies, and the budget. We welcome people who are not on the board to assist on these subcommittees. If you have an interest, reach out to the board president or principal.

What if I have an issue for the Board? – Parents should feel comfortable asking questions and sharing input with any board member. We also hold open forums at the start of our meetings to hear from members of our community. Based on the situation we may refer you to speak to a teacher, the principal, or someone else at the school. If you have questions about what the board does and does not handle you can speak to the board president and he or she can help guide you in the right direction.

Are you in charge of a club or group at Lourdes? Do you need to reserve a classroom or meeting space? Please call Carolyn in the church office to get on the church/school calendar and reserve your space! 563-359-0345

Do you have something to add to the church bulletin? Email your photos and announcements to lourdesbulletin@gmail.com

2017/2018 Home & School President—Nicki Johnson

Welcome back teachers, students and parents! I’m sad to say goodbye to the summer, but excited for a new school year. I hope everyone has had some time to relax and enjoy the summer season and is coming back refreshed and ready to go!

I am looking forward to this school year and my 2nd year as Home & School Board (aka PTA) President. Our family has been a part of the Lourdes family for the last 9 years and we truly see it as a family, not just a parish and school. My oldest daughter, Skylar, will be in 8th grade this year and my youngest daughter, Jada, will be in 5th grade. They have always enjoyed school and ready to get back to their teachers and friends.

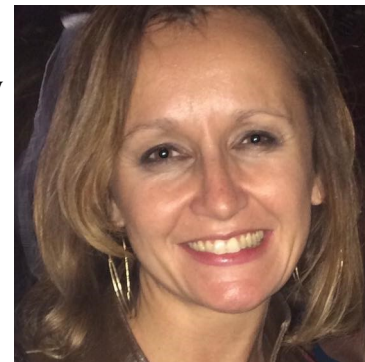
My main goal this year is to invite and encourage families to get involved in the school. We have many volunteer opportunities available and I’d like to see new faces at school helping out and participating in school events. One of our school’s strategic initiatives is to see all families volunteering 10 hours this year. I’d love to see this happen and I believe our school and families will grow and benefit from it.

Wishing everyone blessings and a wonderful start to the 2017-18 school year!

Nicki Johnson

563-424-0858

Johnson.nichollette@gmail.com



What is Home & School (H&S)?

H&S is basically our version of PTA. We work with the teachers to organize events, fundraisers and activities, throughout the school-year. The Home and School Members are in charge of their committee and specific activities.

When you attend Unpack the Backpack, you will have an opportunity to sign up, under these committees. You can get involved and help out with H&S activities throughout the year, without being in charge of any one thing.

President—Nicki Johnson

President-Elect— Jeni Favetti

Ex-Officio—Jenny Grobstich

Treasurer—Karen Moldt

Treasurer-Elect—Mary Guy

Secretary—Jessica Stubbs

Room Parent Coordinators Co-Chairs—Meghan Cornish and Amber Edwards

Hospitality Coordinator Co-Chairs—Lindsey Jennings and Kelly Kruck

Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chairs—Brooke Heckinger and Carla Lemek

New Family Ambassador Co-Chairs—Anne Camarena and Angie Kaney

Publicity Chair—Kristine Girskis

**LCS Welcome Back
COFFEE**

Wednesday, August 23rd - 8:30 AM
Church Gathering Space

Celebrate the start of a new school year with a special time of fellowship. After student(s) are dropped off on Wednesday morning, stop by the church gathering space. Coffee, juice and treats will be served. All parents and younger siblings are welcome!

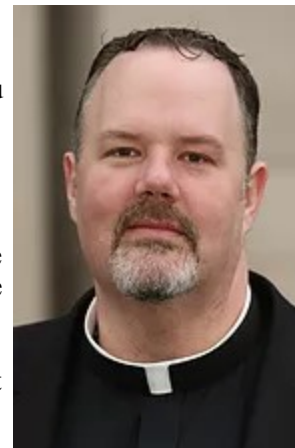
Athletics

If your student plans to participate in any sports at LCS this year, please follow the [link](#) , and fill out the required forms. Any questions, please email our athletic director, Mr. Clark at alec.clark@lourdes.pvt.k12.ia.us

LCS and OLOL is excited to introduce....Father Chris!

I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be joining the parish community here at Our Lady of Lourdes! I am so excited to have the chance to get to know you and to grow together with you in faith and devotion under the patronage of Our Lady!

I thought it might be helpful for you to know a little bit about me as I begin my ministry here. I am an only child, and I grew up on a small farm just north of Independence, Iowa. After high school I went off to study Biology at Luther College, in Decorah. While a lot of people in my life told me I should think about the priesthood I had dreams of becoming a doctor. The Lord, however, had other plans, and during my Sophomore year it became clear to me that He was calling me to do Youth Ministry. After graduation I served as Minister of Faith Formation at St. Patrick's in Iowa City from 2000-2003, and from 2003 – 2011 I served as Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at Ss. Mary & Mathias in Muscatine (where I first got to know Fr. Crossen).



The Lord has a path marked out for each of us to get us to heaven. For some that path is the married life, for others, the priesthood or the religious life. Throughout my time working in Youth Ministry even though I continued to feel little tugs and nudges to think about the priesthood, it just wasn't something I was excited about. But the Lord is patient, and He continued to work on my heart. Over time, and thanks to the witness of some good and holy priests who were truly happy in their vocation and who demonstrated what Pope Francis called the "Joy of the Gospel," I began to see that the priesthood just might be the path the Lord had planned for me.

In 2011 I entered the Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, thinking I would go for a year or two just to try it out. I was pretty sure I wouldn't stay. At the end of my first semester I told Him "Lord, I'm pretty sure this is where you want me to be, so I'm in until they either kick me out or they ordain me." Praise God it was the latter (they ordained me last month)! While I loved my time in the Seminary the hardest part was giving up parish life. That is why I am so excited to become a part of this community!

As I begin my time here at Our Lady of Lourdes I have to ask you for a few favors. First of all, pray for me! It was the prayers of people like you that got me through six years of seminary, and I know it is going to be your prayers that sustain me in my life as a priest. Second, introduce yourself, often! It's going to take me a while to get to know names and faces, so please, be patient with me. Third, invite me over! One of the best ways to get to know somebody is to share a meal with them. I would love to come to your house for dinner some time (I'll even bring dessert!).

Again, I am thrilled to become a part of this community. I promise to do my best to serve you as Christ's priest. Please don't ever hesitate to let me know how I can best serve you.

Every Blessing,

Fr. Chris

PRE-K FAITH FRIDAY PROGRAM

"Faith Fridays" is a weekly program for up to 20 LCS pre-kindergarten students to learn about our Catholic faith in a way that is full of fun and fellowship with friends. Faith Fridays will take place at Lourdes Catholic School from 8:30-11:30am on Friday mornings and will be a similar experience to their structured daily routine in Pre-K, with a curriculum focused on the message of the gospel through stories, songs, activities, and guest speakers. The program will run September 8th through December 16th. The cost for this program will be \$10 per week to cover supplies and snacks. At this time, our AM session is full. However, we have a waiting list started and hope to open a PM session if there's enough interest!



Our School Day.....

School starts at 8:30 AM for K-8 students. However, students may be dropped off as early as 8:00 AM. Dismissal is at 3:20 PM (**except NEW THIS YEAR every Wednesdays when dismissal is at 2:30PM**).

AM preschool and prekindergarten is from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM, and PM prekindergarten is from 12:20-3:20 PM.

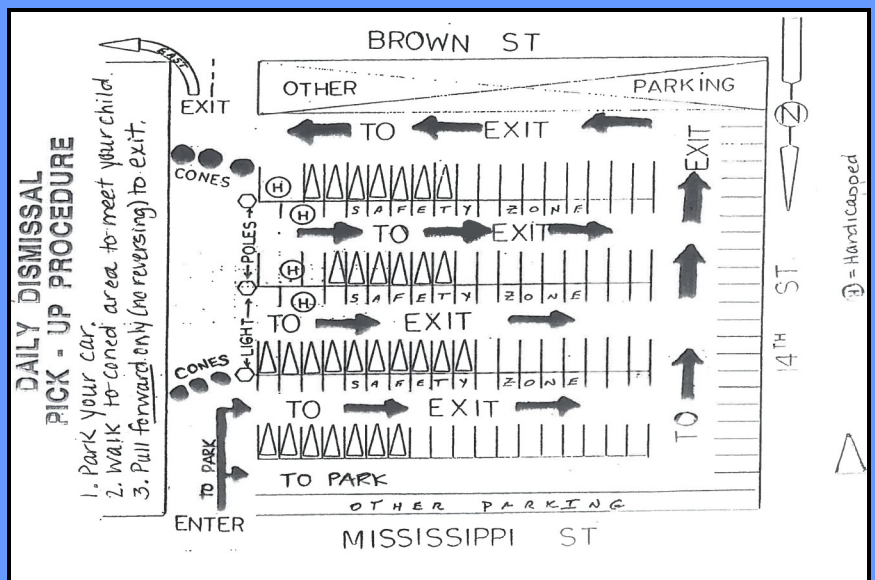
Drop off and pick up of students can sometimes be confusing, especially if you are new to Lourdes. Here is my attempt to summarize it for all of you, based on our handbook:

Drop off:

- * K-8 students should be dropped off between 8:00 and 8:20 AM.
- * Enter the church/school parking lot via Brown Street and stay in the car line along the curb.
- * When it is your turn, a greeter will assist in getting your child out of the car and off to their designated area of the courtyard.
- * Staff supervisors are on duty from 8:00 until 8:20 for each designated area.
- * Morning preschool and prekindergarten students should arrive between 8:30 and 8:40 AM. Afternoon prekindergarten students should arrive between 12:20 and 12:30 PM.
- * Parents pull vehicles up on Mississippi Blvd.
- * Greeters will assist in getting your child out of the car and up the steps into the school.

Pick up:

- * K-8 students and afternoon prekindergarten students are dismissed at 3:20.
- * Students exit into the courtyard and are instructed to wait for their parents.
- * Parents are to enter the parking lot via Mississippi Blvd. between 3:00 and 3:20 PM.
- * Park your vehicle in a space, pulling all the way through.
- * Parents walk up to the coned-off area and escort students by the hand to their vehicle.
- * **When leaving, do not reverse; pull straight forward and exit the parking lot into Brown Street.**



** If you are interested in helping out with the morning drop-off procedure, consider being a [Morning Greeter](#).



SCRIP Q & A:

Q: What is SCRIP?

A: SCRIP is a year-round fundraiser. You buy pre-paid cards for local and online stores, and the school gets a % of sales.

Q: I don't like giving gift cards as gifts, why should I buy SCRIP?

A: Don't think of SCRIP just for gift-giving. Purchase these cards for all of your regular shopping—Target, Starbucks, Friday night pizza, gas, etc..

Q: I do most of my shopping online, can I use SCRIP?

A: Absolutely! We have SCRIP cards for Amazon and so many other online retailers.

Q: Who runs the SCRIP program?

A: Parent volunteers—and we still need more! We are always looking for parents who can help fill orders or pick up the cards from the various stores. We are also looking for volunteers to sell after Mass at Lourdes and St. John Vianney. Email Ms. Alongi if you're interested in helping out!

Q: How do I purchase SCRIP?

A: The order form can be printed off of our school [website](#), or picked up in the school office. Send the completed form with cash or check in your child's backpack, the order will be filled on Tuesday or Friday morning, and sent home in your child's backpack! There are a few businesses that we don't keep in stock, those will be ordered and filled ASAP. SCRIP is also sold after Masses in the gathering space.

Q: Can only Lourdes parents order SCRIP?

A: No! Feel free to hand out order forms to grandma and grandpa, aunts and uncles. You can collect their money and turn it in with your own orders. We will even mail their SCRIP order back to them if you'd like!



What does SCRIP pay for?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Classroom parties | Red Ribbon Week |
| Classroom supplies | Safety Patrol |
| Fieldtrip Fund | Student Council |
| Lego robotics | Unpack the Backpack |
| Bingo Night | Variety Show |
| Drama Club | Visiting Authors |
| Mock Trial | Yearbook Club |
| Battle Books | Career Fair |
| Field Day | Popsicles in the Park |
| Fine Arts Club | Spelling Bee |
| Chess Club | Catholic Schools Week |
| Brag Tags | Middle School Events |
| Fruit of the Spirit | Playground equipment |
| Reading Counts | 8th grade graduation |
| Prayer Buddies | Parish Contribution |



[SCRIP order form \(in stock\)](#)

[SCRIP order form \(need to order\)](#)

SHOP LOCAL!
 K & K Hardware, located on Grant St. in downtown Bettendorf will give 5% of your total purchase to Lourdes Catholic School if you mention it to the cashier upon check out.

Don't forget to shop through the [Amazon Smile](#) page, and select Lourdes Catholic Church. A portion of all sales comes back to Lourdes!

NEW THIS YEAR!
Unpack the Backpack SCRIP Contest!
 Every family that purchases \$100 worth of SCRIP will be entered into a drawing for a basket of LCS gear! Spend \$300 and get 3 entries in the drawing!

Start collecting box tops and soup labels - we will have a fall class room contest. The soup label program is ending so we have a few more months to gather and submit to earn money for Lourdes! The box top program will continue and we want to continue to raise money for LCS.

Staff Spotlight—New Staff!

10 Fun Facts About Mrs. Ashby (5th grade)

1. Born in Salinas, California (middle child)
2. Lived in 8 cities in 4 states: California, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Iowa (Bettendorf is the longest place I have lived, in my life - 11 years)
3. Camp Counselor and Weekend Host for Retreat/Conference Center at Carol Joy Holling Camp
4. Married for 17 years to my college sweetheart, Todd Ashby, and blessed with a daughter, Miley, current 7th grader
5. Studied cathedrals and castles overseas in Germany, Great Britain, France, Austria; Performed in Denmark and Germany with Dana College choir; Toured Ireland with family
6. Directed a 100 member cast for the Ponca All-School/Community musical, The Sound of Music
7. Sang the national anthem in a quartet at 1999 College World Series
8. Favorite dessert is Scotcharoos
9. Reading is my favorite hobby
10. Taught 5th-6th combo at Ponca Public School for 1 year; 7th and 8th grade at Holy Name Catholic School for 6 years; 4th grade at Rivermont Collegiate for 11 years



Welcome to Lourdes, Mrs. Ashby!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Aug 22 - "Unpack the Backpack" LCS Gym
- Aug 23 - LLL Extended Care Program Begins
- Aug 23 - First Day of School K-8th Grades
- Aug 23 - Before/After School Care Program Begins
- Aug 23 - Welcome Back Coffee, Church Gathering Space
- Aug 23 - Early Dismissal, K-8

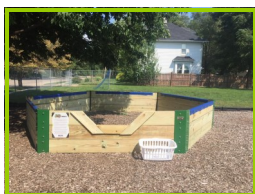
- Aug 29 - Mass
- Aug 30 - First Day of PreKindergarten(PreK) AM & PM Classes
- Aug 30 - Early Dismissal, K-8
- Sep 4 - No School - Labor Day
- Sep 5 - First Day 2-Day preschool
- Sep 6 - First Day 3-Day preschool

[See Full School Calendar](#)

NEW THIS YEAR

All-school Mass will be at 9am on Tuesday mornings. All are welcome to attend with the students.
Pursuant to the Bettendorf SD schedule, we will dismiss EVERY Wednesday at 2:30pm

Scouts - Cub Scout and Girl Scouts is continuing to grow, at Lourdes. Stop by the Scout table at Unpack the Backpack to sign up your kindergarten boy or girl, for Scouts! Email jessiern@mchsi.com for info about Girl Scouts and kriseanderson@hotmail.com for Cub Scouts.



Special thanks to Boy Scout, Andy Haberkorn of SJV Troop 24, for the addition of the new Gaga Pit at Big Toy!



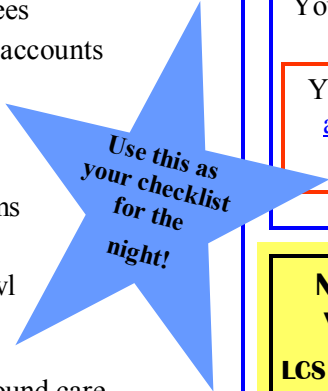
What is Unpack the Backpack? 8/22/17

Students can:

- Drop off their school supplies
- See their classroom
- Meet their teacher and other classmates
- Sign-up for clubs and activities

Parents can:

- Sign-up for committees
- Add money to lunch accounts
- Buy spirit-wear
- Buy used uniforms
- Meet the staff
- Turn in required forms
- Pay tuition
- Set-up auto-withdrawl for tuition/tithing
- Purchase SCRIP
- Register for wrap-around care



There are many other ways to get involved and spend some time at school. At Unpack the Backpack, you will have an opportunity to sign-up to help out during your child's library time, lunchroom duty and many others. We encourage you to check out our [Volunteer](#) page, on the school website for more information. * **Please note, there ARE opportunities to help out at school, even with younger siblings!**

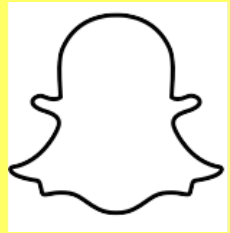
You will have an opportunity to set-up and add money to your child's lunch account, at Unpack the Backpack.


You can check your [lunch account](#) balance online, throughout the year.

Student Pricing:
 Student Lunch (Includes Milk) \$3.15
 Milk Only \$.45
 Extra Entrée \$1.50

NEW THIS YEAR!!!!
 LCS will have our very own Snapchat filter, available when you are on school grounds, for Unpack the Backpack AND the first day of school.

1. **Before you leave home, download the Snapchat app on your phone and create an account.**
 2. **When you get to school, open the app, select the LCS filter and snap a photo of your student. Don't forget to share your photo on Facebook and Instagram #weloveLCS**
****Ask your kids to help you with this one - you will definitely earn cool points!**



 Stop by and grab a cookie and juice from the hospitality table!

What is LCS Curriculum Night? - September 12th, 6:00pm
 LCS Curriculum Night is a chance for parents to hear from the Staff and H&S about important plans and procedures for the school year. You will hear from the principal, H&S President, School Board President, and Father Jason. We will introduce new staff members and members of the Home & School Board. You will also get a chance to visit your student's classroom and get specific details from the teacher about the year ahead. This is a parent-only event.

We worked hard to update and renovate the school this summer. Check it out!

