



Our Lady of the Wayside School

Parent Survey Results & Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Excellence. United in Community.

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What We Heard, What We're Building

The fall 2025 parent survey captured feedback from families across all grade levels. The results confirm deep satisfaction with Our Lady of the Wayside's Catholic identity, academic quality, and communication. They also revealed opportunities to strengthen technology integration, conflict resolution, and external marketing. This strategic plan translates your voices into action across four pillars.

100%

Agree OLW embodies its Catholic mission

96%

Satisfied with overall quality of instruction

95%

Child prepared for future academic success

98%

Satisfied with internal communication

90%

Consider OLW their parish

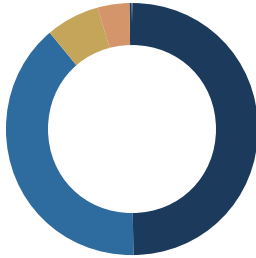
75%

Attend Mass weekly or monthly

Who Responded

Our survey reached families across all grade levels and tenure ranges, providing a comprehensive snapshot of our community.

Children Enrolled



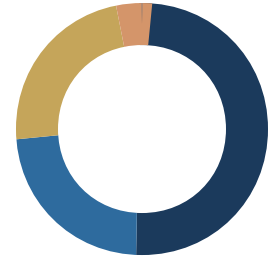
- 1 child: 50%
- 2 children: 39%
- 3 children: 7%
- 4+ children: 3%

Years in Community



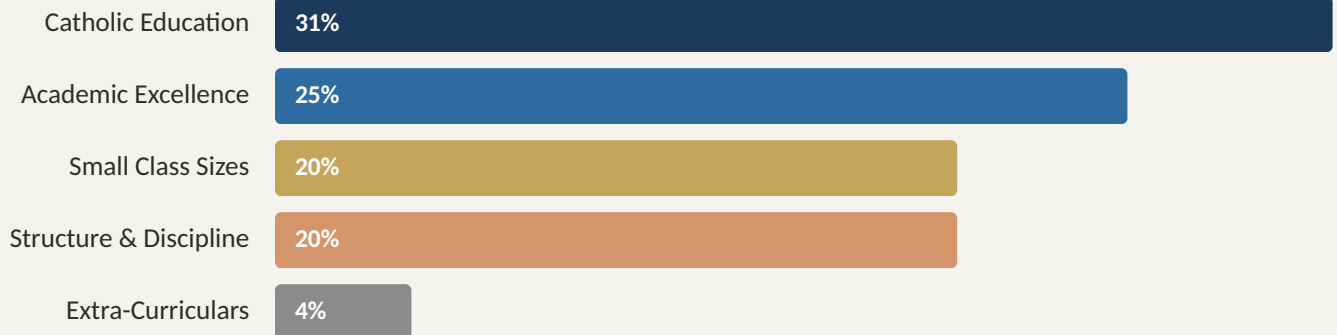
- 7+ yr: 41%
- 4-6 yr: 26%
- 1-3 yr: 23%
- <1 yr: 10%

Years in Parish



- 7+ yr: 51%
- 4-6 yr: 23%
- 1-3 yr: 23%
- <1 yr: 4%

Why Families Choose OLW



Community Snapshot: Two-thirds of respondents have been in the OLW community for 4+ years, and 74% have been in the parish for 4+ years. This deep-rooted tenure reflects lasting commitment and gives strategic initiatives a strong foundation of institutional trust.

Pillar I: Academic Excellence and Innovation

Our parent community demonstrates strong confidence in Our Lady of the Wayside's academic rigor and effectiveness. Overall satisfaction with instruction quality reaches 96%, with particularly strong ratings in religion and language arts. The data reveals technology integration as our most significant growth opportunity, presenting both a challenge and an exciting frontier for strengthened teaching and learning.

Academic Satisfaction

Q10: Satisfied with instruction quality



Q11: Curriculum appropriately challenging



Q14: Religion curriculum



Q13: Language Arts curriculum



Q12: Math curriculum



Q15: Science curriculum



Q19: Child prepared for future academic success



Technology Integration

Q17: Technology integration in curriculum



Q18: Adequate tech tools provided for learning



KEY INSIGHT: *Technology is the #1 opportunity area. While 63% are satisfied with tech in the curriculum, this is the lowest satisfaction score across all academic measures. Strategic investment in classroom technology and professional development will strengthen teaching and learning.*

Strategic Initiatives

- Strengthen curriculum alignment to support growth at every grade level
- Enhance Math, STEM, and literacy while integrating faith across subjects
- Expand enrichment and learning support to meet diverse student needs
- Invest in classroom technology that supports inspired teaching
- Strengthen communication between school leadership and the community

Looking Ahead: These initiatives position OLW to deepen academic excellence while maintaining the personalized, faith-centered approach that makes our school distinctive. By investing in technology and expanding support systems, we honor both the strengths our parents affirm and the opportunities they identify.

Pillar II: Institutional Strength and Vitality

For 51% of our families, OLW represents seven or more years of partnership. This deep community tenure demonstrates the stability and reputation we have built. As we move forward, financial sustainability and facility excellence will ensure that future generations benefit from the same quality Catholic education.

Strong community roots position us well, yet intentional stewardship of our resources and facilities will be essential to fulfill our mission for years to come. Investment in security, accessibility, and learning environments will directly support our academic and spiritual goals.

Strategic Initiatives

- Ensure long-term financial stability through responsible planning
- Review tuition and financial assistance to support accessibility
- Prioritize facility improvements: student bathrooms, repaving parking areas, improving play areas
- Strengthen fundraising and alumni engagement efforts
- Prioritize facility security and student safety

Connection to Survey Insights: Questions 17 and 18 highlight the need for technology investment—a facility and resource strength priority. Our parents' deep tenure (Q3, Q5) reflects the trust they place in our stewardship and planning for the future.

Sustainability Through Excellence

Our strategic plan will work to balance immediate needs—bathrooms, parking, security—with long-term viability. Strong financial health enables us to attract and retain exceptional faculty, maintain competitive salaries, and offer robust financial assistance. This cycle of strength supports everything we do academically and spiritually.

Pillar III: Community Engagement and Mission

Our Lady of the Wayside's Catholic identity resonates strongly with families: 100% agree we embody our Catholic mission, with 69% expressing strong agreement. Yet the survey also shows a critical area for growth: conflict resolution, bullying prevention, and inclusion received our lowest satisfaction rating at 61%. This tension—between mission strength and relational challenges—provides a great chance for us to help our students in a meaningful way.

Mission and Faith Life



Q8: Faith-academics integration important (95% agree)



38%
Attend Mass weekly | 37% Attend monthly | 75% Total regular attendance

Community and Belonging

Q20: School supports emotional health (81% agree)



Q24: School is welcoming and inclusive (90% agree)



Q21: Effective at bullying and conflict resolution, and inclusion (61% agree)



KEY INSIGHT: *Bullying, conflict resolution, and inclusion received the lowest satisfaction rating in the entire survey at 61%. This is the top priority under Community Engagement and Mission. While parents affirm our mission and overall warmth, 25% remain neutral or dissatisfied with our efforts in these critical relational areas. This signals a call to action.*

90%

Consider OLW their parish

Strategic Initiatives

- Deepen Catholic identity through prayer, service, and spiritual formation
- Strengthen parish and school collaboration
- Expand meaningful opportunities for parent involvement
- Foster a welcoming, inclusive, and connected community
- Continue to invest in resources to create an inclusive student body, strengthen anti-bullying initiatives, and focus on emotional wellbeing

Our Response to the Data: The 61% satisfaction with conflict resolution and inclusion is our wake-up call. Our strong mission foundation—affirmed by 100% of parents—gives us the spiritual resources to build a more just and healing community. Working collaboratively with teachers, parents, and outside resources as necessary will help us to help our students.

Pillar IV: Growth and Outreach

Internal communication at Our Lady of the Wayside is a major strength, with 98% of parents satisfied. This reflects the effectiveness of our principal, office staff, and faculty in keeping families informed and connected. External communication and marketing present an opportunity: while our internal community knows our excellence, we have not yet fully shared that story with prospective families and the broader community.

Communication Effectiveness

Q22: Satisfied with internal communication (98% agree)



Q23: Satisfied with external communication (75% agree)



KEY INSIGHT: *Internal communication is a major strength at 98% satisfaction. External communication and marketing present an opportunity, with 20% neutral. This gap represents untapped enrollment potential and the chance to share our story more widely.*

Why Families Choose OLW

Survey data (Q9) reveals the priorities that draw families to our school:

- Catholic education: 31%
- Academic excellence: 25%
- Small class sizes: 20%
- Structure and discipline: 20%
- Extra-curriculars: 4%

Strategic Initiatives

- Develop a thoughtful three-year enrollment strategy
- Strengthen recruitment from early childhood through middle school
- Refresh marketing efforts to reflect mission and excellence
- Celebrate student achievements and share our story widely

The Opportunity: Our strongest internal marketing tool is our parents. Word-of-mouth from satisfied families has sustained OLW for generations. By equipping families to share our story and by strengthening our external communications, we can reach more prospective families who share our values and seek our kind of education.

Our Shared Commitment

With faith as our foundation and community as our strength, we will continue to guide our students toward academic success, spiritual growth, and lives of service.

The fall 2025 parent survey has given us a clear and generous gift: honest feedback that affirms our strengths and names the opportunities before us.

This strategic plan for 2026-2029 is our commitment to act on that feedback. We will invest in technology to deepen inspired teaching. We will strengthen our conflict resolution and inclusion practices to ensure every child experiences the belonging our Catholic mission promises. We will tell our story more effectively to reach families seeking what we offer. We will maintain the financial and facility strength that makes all of this possible.

To our families: **thank you** for your participation in the survey, your trust in our mission, and your partnership in this work. Please let the School Advisory Board know if you would be interested in helping with any of the four pillars outlined in this plan. There are many ways for you to contribute your time and gifts.

May God continue to bless our school and every family who calls it home.

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March 2026