

For Immediate Release



## Exciting future ahead for Our Lady of Lourdes

### *School expanding to offer Grade 8 in the fall*

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School is embarking on a remarkable journey. Starting September 2025, students in West Kelowna will have the opportunity to continue their Catholic education all the way through to Grade 8.

This fall, the school will expand its programming to include Grade 8, providing a seamless transition from early learning to high school.

"This is an incredible milestone for Our Lady of Lourdes," said School Principal Kathryn Grootjes. "By adding Grade 8, we are strengthening the spiritual and academic foundation we provide to our students, ensuring they continue to grow in faith and knowledge as they prepare to step into their high school years."



Our Lady of Lourdes is expanding to offer Grade 8 in the fall.



Students will be able to transition directly from Our Lady of Lourdes to high school.

Students now have the opportunity to complete their middle school years at OLOL before transitioning to high school, providing greater continuity in education, fostering ongoing relationships, and setting a strong foundation for success.

"We are so excited for our students, staff, and families," said Grootjes. "This expansion means that students will be able to continue in the Catholic educational system, staying within a community where they are known, loved, and supported in their faith."

Superintendent Pamela Guilbault shared her enthusiasm, noting the importance of offering Grade 8 at Our Lady of Lourdes. "This change allows us to offer parents the peace of mind knowing that their children are not only receiving excellent education, but they are growing in their faith every day. It is a privilege to walk with them on this important part of their journey."

With this exciting step forward, Our Lady of Lourdes is preparing to equip students for success in high school and beyond, all while remaining rooted in the values of faith, community, and excellence that have long defined the school.



"The future is incredibly bright for students, staff, and families at Our Lady of Lourdes. This new initiative ensures we keep the Our Lady of Lourdes family together, while continuing to offer the strong, faith-based education our families have come to expect," said Acting Principal Chad Sheehan.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

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