

A Catholic Education at OMC: Priceless

By Katie Boyle
OMC Class of 2008

Katie Boyle attended OMC Parish School from Preschool through Eighth Grade and graduated in 2008. Katie is currently a junior at Mount Saint Joseph's Academy and a teen representative on the Parish Pastoral Council.

I was four years old when I was first welcomed to the OMC community. As you know, a four year old girl knows very little about herself, and even less about others. A considerable friend is the girl who lets you borrow her sparkly purple pencil during art time, and faith is that thing that the teacher tells you to have in God. However, 13 years later, thanks to my experiences at OMC, I have developed lifelong friendships and a sense of self that is rooted by a deep meaning of faith the four-year old me could not fathom.

OMC presented me with a rigorous academic curriculum which prepared me for high school at Mount Saint Joseph's and for the rest of my life

What I believe makes Catholic school stand out is the incorporation of our Catholic faith into the everyday... into all aspects of learning and all aspects of life itself. I couldn't count how many times the phrase "religion is not for only inside the classroom, but everywhere outside the classroom" was reiterated during my ten years at OMC. But it *is* that instillation of the significance of religion into the minds of children that will create a generation who seeks God and lives through Him. An education that incorporates God into any subject imaginable is something you just cannot put a price tag on. I find OMC to be a place where differences are celebrated, opinions are valued, and religion is cherished.

A Catholic school develops the fundamentals of faith within children and allows for those children to freely interpret what their faith means to them specifically. This sense of faith defines the OMC community. However, not only did OMC School provide me with an understanding of faith (along with stress-free mornings thanks to a uniform) but I was also presented with a rigorous academic curriculum which prepared me for high school at the Mount and for the rest of my life. Each year, beginning with Sister Marie in Preschool and ending with Mr. Brennan in Eighth Grade, I was academically challenged and encouraged to test my intellectual limits. I was encouraged to set goals and to achieve them, each time raising the bar of success higher. This urge to strive for achievement that identifies the OMC academic program prepared me to succeed in the competitive atmosphere that defines the Mount.

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At OMC School, displays of faith are not isolated to once a week events, but are incorporated into everyday life. OMC Parish School is living proof that religion is found outside the classroom. On weekends, OMC students can be found at various Catholic Youth Organization sporting events. Each game begins with a prayer, and each game ends with the shaking of hands. OMC students regularly participate in service projects throughout the school year and students are invited to train as altar servers and sacristans. Thanks to my Catholic education at OMC, I have grown to appreciate my faith and express it as I journey through all aspects of life.

And so, I leave you with my own twist on the familiar MasterCard commercial...

Uniform... 200 dollars

OMC Tuition... 3,000 dollars

A child who grows to know and love God through Catholic education... **PRICELESS**