ACADEMY OF
OUR LADY OF
PEACE



THIS IS OLP

WELCOME TO OLP

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All of Which Woman is Capable

As the oldest high school in San Diego, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP) has been educating young women for 135 years. OLP is an all girls' secondary school with an unparalleled leadership development program for young women. Founded in 1882, OLP fosters an environment where girls become "women of heart, women of faith and women of courage."

Our Mission:

Founded and rooted in the Gospel values of the Catholic church and the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace empowers young women in an innovative learning environment that honors the individual while fostering community, and develops faith-filled leaders dedicated to the "love of God and the dear neighbor without distinction."

SHE IS *free to be herself*

At girls' schools, it's not a matter of separating boys from girls. It's simply about giving girls everything they need to *shine*.

OLP is dedicated to the philosophy that academic excellence, leadership skills and confidence flourish best in an environment with a sole focus on empowering young women. After all, current research shows that women who attended single-sex schools tended to out perform their co-educational counterparts.

"In a single-sex school, a girl can comprehend her value and her capabilities in ways that have nothing to do with how she looks. She can be free to experiment and explore, trying out new things and trying on new roles. She can follow her ambitions without having a second thought or a backwards glance on how her male counterparts might perceive her." – *"Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools: Differences in their Characteristics and the Transition to College," UCLA, 2009.*

Recent statistics from the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS), of which OLP is a member school, show that all girls' schools:

›› Allow girls to be themselves, and provide an environment where **students feel safe to express themselves and engage in an open and safe exchange** of ideas.

›› Champion STEM careers. Graduates of all girls' schools are **six times more likely to consider majoring in math, science and technology** compared to girls at co-ed schools.

›› Help produce a **healthy self-confidence.**

›› Feature a girl in every leadership role. **93% of girls' school graduates say they were offered greater leadership opportunities** than peers at co-ed schools.

SHE *engages and achieves*

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace has been educating girls since 1882. Our rigorous and interdisciplinary curriculum is designed specifically for girls. Faculty are able to focus solely on how girls learn and utilize teaching pedagogies that benefit the young women at OLP.

OLP provides all the tools necessary to thrive at the collegiate level through the use of block scheduling and an academically-competitive college preparatory curriculum.

The OLP Difference:

>> **Zero block, G block and the Pilot Online Learning Academy offer students access** to a broader range of course selections while opening up space in their schedules for extra-curricular activities and athletics.

>> A unique climate allows girls to feel comfortable **expressing themselves freely and frequently.**

>> More than **74% of faculty members hold advanced degrees.**

>> Faculty are committed and **work at OLP for an average of 12 years.**

>> Exciting and **engaging elective courses** offer unparalleled opportunities for students to pursue their interests and try new things.

>> A **Sisters & Scholars program works to meet the needs of students** who have identified learning differences.

>> Four full-time **counselors guide students through their academic plan**, college applications and emotional support needs.

"If your daughter goes to school happy and comes home happy what more can you ask for?" – *Current OLP Parent*

SHE *is a leader*

OLP students are empowered and prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow. Our college preparatory curriculum commissions them to become "all of which woman is capable," a statement carried forth by the founders themselves.

There are more than 350 leadership opportunities available annually that encompass many realms of campus life, including student life, athletics and the performing arts. At OLP, girls occupy every leadership role.

"By subtracting boys, an all-girls' education adds opportunities. At a girls' school, a girl occupies every role: every part in the play, every seat on the student government, every position on every team. Not only does she have a wealth of avenues for self-exploration and development, she has a wealth of peer role models." – *NCGS*

Leadership experiences at OLP help prepare our graduates for college and beyond.

Elizabeth Hanczor '17 introduces Anne Sweeney, a member of Netflix's Board of Directors, at our annual Women's Symposium.

SHE *is more than a friend; she is a sister*

At OLP, the bonds that are formed over four years last a lifetime.

Right from the start, when frosh are guided by upperclass Link Crew leaders through their orientation and welcome events, students feel at home at OLP. This happens naturally. OLP girls provide each other with an environment of friendship, acceptance, support and understanding.

"There's something about OLP... it's cheesy, but there's a sisterhood. It's not just because we're a private school or because we're an all girls' school – it's just the way OLP is structured. It gives us a way to bond as a class. I don't think there will be a place where I can be so close to people all at once, like a community." – *OLP Alumna Class of 2016*

Photographer Claudia Sanchez '20 captures what friendship looks like on OLP's campus.

SHE *invents and creates*

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects are integrated throughout our rigorous curriculum, giving our girls the opportunity to learn and create across a variety of disciplines. STEM at OLP focuses on providing young women with courses like robotics, engineering, computer science and biotechnology in effort to prepare students for meeting the needs of tomorrow's society.

The OLP Robotics Team competes during the spring semester and has received accolades and awards for its robotic builds and presentation skills. The team is mentored by former FIRST Robotics standouts who are now completing their undergraduate degrees at SDSU and UCSD.

A partnership with Purdue University's EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) program guides engineering students as they engage with their community through design projects that meet the needs of local stakeholders.

STEM @ OLP:

- Access to more than 42 classes in the STEM disciplines
- STEM certification acknowledges students for their achievements and involvement in STEM-related activities and courses
- STEM courses include:

- Engineering
- Statistics
- Algebra
- Calculus
- Biotechnology
- Physics
- Architecture
- Genetics
- Sports Medicine
- Chemistry
- Marine Science
- AP Computer Science Principles

Biology students engage in hands-on learning as they dissect a cow heart to learn more about cardiovascular systems.

SHE *engages with technology*

The opportunities to engage with technology for learning are limitless at OLP.

OLP's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program allows teachers and students to collaborate and communicate digitally. This program also allows families to select the optimal device for their daughter, based on her learning style.

Through Pilot Productions (PTV), students gain hands-on experience using the latest broadcasting technology to produce daily, 100% student-led, all-school broadcasts.

OLP is also proud to be the first school in San Diego to bring zSpace Virtual Reality technology to campus. Wearing special glasses and using a stylus to manipulate 3-D graphics on the screen, students learn visually while interacting with a vast catalog of course material.













SHE *plays to her strengths*

OLP remains at the forefront of athletic recognition through our dedicated coaching staff and by fielding 33 teams in 16 sports. Student athletes make up more than 60% of our student population and the majority of these students maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher while participating in competitive sports.

Sports by Season:

>> **Fall:** Cross Country; Golf; Tennis; Volleyball

>> **Spring:** Lacrosse; Track & Field; Swim & Dive; Sand Volleyball; Softball; Archery

>> **Winter:** Basketball; Soccer; Water Polo

>> **Year Round:** Cheer; Surf; Equestrian

SHE *takes center stage*

At OLP, we believe the arts are an essential and fundamental component of education. Education in the arts is an important and necessary endeavor that nurtures the spiritual, moral, psychological and social growth of all students.

OLP offers a variety of visual and performing arts options, including student organizations, theatrical performances, competitions, community displays and a variety of classes.

The Theatre Program produces two shows per academic year. Students are recognized annually by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) annually for their talents through LAMDA's examinations in Musical Theatre, Acting and Public Speaking. In addition, more than 400 students participate in OLP's annual Spring Sing production – a tradition that takes place every February.

The Orchestra and Honor Choir programs offer students the opportunity to share their gifts with the community through performances and formal competitions.

The new Dance program blends the arts with physical education, and opens up a variety of opportunities for students to participate in performances and competitions.

Grace Newton '17 performs the role of Belle in the fall 2016 production of Beauty & the Beast. Grace was nominated and represented OLP in the prestigious Ben Vereen Awards two years in a row for her lead performances in Anything Goes and Beauty & the Beast.

SHE *expresses herself*

Creativity is at the forefront of what 21st century companies are looking for in their employees. At OLP, students continue to break the mold and think outside the box. They are today's trailblazers.

A variety of course offerings encourages students to pursue their true passions. Each semester, their works are displayed at joint art shows with SAHS.

Our curriculum also provides opportunity for college credit. Over the past 20 years, 100% of OLP's AP Art students have passed the College Board's AP Art Student Performance Portfolio evaluation.

Courses in photography, graphic design and video production prepare students to communicate creatively in an ever-changing technological world.

The Visual & Performing Arts Curriculum includes:

- >> Art I & II
- >> Dance I & II
- >> Drama I & II
- >> Choral Ensemble
- >> Graphic Arts I & II
- >> Painting I & II
- >> AP Studio Art
- >> Photography I & II
- >> Music Theory I
- >> AP Music Theory
- >> Video Production I, II, III
- >> Graphic Arts & Printmaking
- >> Orchestra
- >> Honor Choir
- >> Hand-building Ceramics I & II
- >> Architecture

Madeline Becker '19 paints in Mr. Stringer's Painting I class.

SHE *serves God and the "dear neighbor"*

The Department of Religious Studies curriculum is rooted in balancing formation with information and is integrated across all disciplines under the guidance of the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Students enjoy the opportunity to serve in local and international communities, participate in retreat experiences and express their faith through religious studies and Campus Ministry. Last year, our students collectively completed 28,000 hours of community service.

"Our daughter just loves her academics and community! Thanks for your great support of her physical and mental well being." - *Current OLP Parent*

The student body gathers for Mass on the Grass, which takes place during our annual Community Day tradition.

SHE *has fun*

At OLP, we value fun during the school day as much as outside of school. From Wacky Wednesdays hosted by the Council of 10 to Spirit Rallies, and the annual Spring Sing production to class celebrations, OLP students receive opportunities to be joyful, uninhibited girls for as long as possible.

Outside of school, students experience the social and co-curricular events typical to high school life in partnership with Saint Augustine High School. Annual dances, Friday night football games, ASB programs and community service projects all provide opportunities for social engagements.





SHE WILL... *change the world*

OLP's curriculum, values and culture shape young women who act responsibly, think critically, excel academically and thrive socially. Our graduates are ready to successfully negotiate post-secondary studies and lead in their chosen fields.

Following four years of extensive academic and extra-curricular planning, college counseling meetings, college visits and workshops, an OLP senior is an ideal applicant for colleges and universities. In fact, 100% of our students pursue higher education upon graduating from OLP.

College Acceptance Stats:

>> The Class of 2017 was offered **897 acceptances to 236 unique institutions.**

>> More than **67% of the Class of 2017 was offered at least one scholarship** from a college or university.

>> The 177 members of the Class of 2017 were offered **$27.1 million in merit-based scholarships.**

>> Consistently, over 20% of our graduates will be the **first in their families to attend college.**

>> In a class of all girls, **36% plan to pursue STEM majors** in college.

"Worth every dime! My daughter has become an incredible young lady. She has surpassed what we believed she would accomplish."
– Current OLP Parent

Daniella Gomez-Ochoa '17 walks to the graduation stage on North Terrace. She is now attending Harvard University on a full-ride scholarship. Graduates of OLP have been graduating from North terrace for more than 85 years.



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WE WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THE OLP DIFFERENCE!

Contact our Admissions Department at
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