



Executive Summary

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Archdiocese of Baltimore

Mr. Christopher M Ashby, Principal
1706 Old Eastern Ave
Baltimore, MD 21221-2203

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School continues a long and storied history of educating young men and women in Eastern Baltimore County. Dating back to 1893, long before the streets were paved, Our Lady of Mount Carmel was a tiny mission parish made up of industrious farmers who were dedicated to their faith and had a deep love for their church.

As the growing population of the Mount Carmel Community continued, so did the warranting of an educational facility to properly instill faith and fundamentals in their youth. As planned by Father Nicholas M. Jaselli, OLMC Pastor from 1916-1949, school construction began in the summer of 1925.

Founded in 1927, with a four room elementary school, 187 pupils began their education on the Mount Carmel Campus. In 1929, with the help of booming local industry, the Essex-Middle River area saw incredible growth which brought more and more families to the little town. By 1935 the school had over 360 students enrolled, causing the need for additional classrooms.

In 1949, Father Jaselli was replaced by Rev. C. Carroll Kerr, who during his tenure saw enrollment reach 850 students and the addition of five new classrooms to the preexisting school structure. Elevated to Monsignor in May of 1958, it was Msgr. Kerr's dream to provide his parish students with the opportunity to further their education through high school.

The wheels of the high school concept were already in motion in August of 1958 when Msgr. Kerr suffered a severe heart attack.

Unfortunately, in January of 1959, Msgr. Kerr passed away before seeing his dream of a high school come to fruition. In September of 1959, Mount Carmel High School was completed and opened its doors to 87 students.

A few years later, the 70s, the Mount Carmel Campus was busy and buzzing throughout the area. The high school library was moved to the first floor beneath the gymnasium and a biology lab-classroom was added. Exterior changes also took place as the church parking lot was shortened for the installation of an athletic field for physical education classes and athletic team use. The elementary school was also able to celebrate 50 years of service to the community in 1977.

The school mascot, the Cougar, was introduced in 1971, appearing at athletic contests and events to cheer teams to victory. Cougar Fever spread throughout the area with the help of the school's athletic van, used to transport athletes, bearing the warning "BEWARE, COUGARS INSIDE!"

In 1978, Father Don McMasters came to Mount Carmel. Father McMasters was an ardent advocate and guide for young men and women, soon becoming a beloved figure on campus. His untimely death in April of 1979 marked a period of grieving as students and faculty mourned the loss of their mentor and dear friend. Years later, both the endowment scholarship fund and the Honors Program were named in his honor.

Through administration change, Mrs. Kathleen Sipes became principal of the elementary and high school in January of 1991. Through her leadership, the school developed and adapted its curriculum to attract and challenged gifted, college-bound students. The English and Mathematics Departments were formally added to the McMasters Program, as well as the developing of strategic plans for the use of technology on campus.

In the fall of 1996, Reverend Doctor Robert Hartnett joined the parish as pastor, immediately taking an active role in the elementary and high school. The now Monsignor Hartnett, even took part in the Men's Soccer Team's MIAA Championship run in 2000, as he along with the players dyed his hair blond in support of the eventual champion Cougars.

After the turn of the century, the Archdiocese of Baltimore made many changes to the organization of the Catholic schools in the Baltimore area. In 2010, Mount Carmel reorganized its school structure which would incorporate Upper (6th-12th grades) and Lower (K-5th grades) Schools to its campus. Mrs. Kathleen Sipes would also take on a new role, becoming the first School President in Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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history.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School offers educational opportunities to students through our Early Learning and Childcare Program (ages two through four), Lower School (grades kindergarten through five, and Upper School (grades six through twelve). The only co-educational PreK - 12 Catholic school in Baltimore County, Mount Carmel is proud to offer college preparatory courses for students of varying ability and learning styles.

Our Early Learning and Childcare Program focuses on the needs of each child, by providing an academic curriculum designed to enhance a child's knowledge, faith, character, and social skills in a developmentally appropriate setting. Our wide array of programs provides an opportunity for children to develop spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically within the nurturing and loving environment of a Catholic school. Children are encouraged to expand their knowledge base with skills and concept needed for Kindergarten success through the integration of Mathematics, Language Arts, Fine Arts, Science, Technology, Social Studies, and Religion.

Our Lower School is a values-driven program providing a quality Catholic education. The sharing of a campus with an ever-growing upper school and early learning program, students are able to utilize many and varied resources to benefit their education. A dedicated staff provides a supportive and nurturing environment for each student. Innovative methodologies ensure personalized educational experiences for all students in a single track setting. Cutting-edge technology is interwoven through the curriculum with the use of tablets and SMART boards in every classroom, along with a 3-D printer for student use in a technology lab.

Our Upper School serves a diverse student population. The college preparatory program includes solid fundamentals, integrated technology, and a focus on preparing students to be the twenty-first century learners. Through our partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County, students have the opportunity to earn college credit through an extensive parallel enrollment program. The program draws on the resources from the college to provide dual credit for college courses taught by college professors on our own school campus. Qualifying students have earned as many as 28 college credits before ever leaving our campus. Courses in Mathematics, English, and Computer Science among others have been offered to date with an ever expanding list developing as we move into the future.

The U.S.S. STAR Program is an evolving series of programs and procedures at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School designed to enable students at risk at the secondary level to increase their opportunities for success in school and related settings. The programs and procedures are based on recent educational research, as well as statistical information regarding strategies that have been proven effective. The program is available to students in grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve who have difficulty attending, have earned marginal grades in the past, have a documented learning disability, or have indicated a need for a stronger support system in order to achieve educational success. The U.S.S. STAR program is directed by a reading specialist who has extensive experience and expertise regarding learning differences.

The international student program gives students from other countries an opportunity to receive an excellent Catholic education while providing our local students a global perspective.

The school serves 550 students: 80 in the Early Learning and Childcare Program, 152 in the Lower School, and 318 in the Upper School, of which forty-eight percent are minorities. Our student to teacher ratio is 16 to 1. The student population is 62 percent male and 38 percent female.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School is an Archdiocesan Collaborative School (ACS), which is a model of shared governance developed by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The ACS model utilizes a shared governance model that fosters unity through the collaboration of stakeholders in support of Catholic schools. The model allows decisions regarding day-to-day school operations to be made at the local level, while individual schools and school administrators are supported centrally from the Department of Catholic Schools and the Catholic Center's Central Services in areas such as academics, finance, development, enrollment management, and marketing.

In the last three years, Mount Carmel has experienced many changes, including the acquisition of the latest technology, the return of our Early Learning and Childcare Program to our main campus, and the retirement of our first President. While serving students from age two through 18 presents many challenges, our students are blessed with the unique interactions that come from working with students outside of their peer and age group. In addition, our small student population allows for one-on-one attention and a family atmosphere not found at larger schools.

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School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School invites, teaches, and nurtures children and adolescents in a hospitable and familial program which is academically excellent and rooted in Catholic teachings. The school develops graduates who are lifelong learners, who behave ethically, value the dignity of others, and work for social justice.

Vision Statement

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School creates a spiritual and personalized educational environment where children and adolescents grow, graduate, and succeed as they move forward in life as effective thinkers and communicators, invigorated with faith and infused with knowledge.

Graduate Profile

The school graduates students who are:

Effective decision makers and goal-oriented individuals who base their actions on Gospel values and Catholic teachings.

Productive, interactive citizens who embrace a life of tolerance, openness, and integrity rooted in service to diverse local and global communities.

Well-rounded critical readers and creative thinkers who are able to apply skills and knowledge in the pursuit of higher education.

Life-long learners who are technologically competent and academically prepared.

Persons of integrity who continuously apply their talents to meet the needs of an ever-changing society.

Successful adults who apply their knowledge and faith to the home, the workplace, and the community.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

The Early Learning and Childhood Program seeks to create a high quality pre-K program that will look to earn a five-star recognition from Maryland Excels. A formal curriculum was introduced into the PreK 3 classroom.

For total scores of all grades tested (third through eighth), Mount Carmel students' Stanford test scores increased in all subjects excluding math over the past three school years. (Math scores remained the same over the same time period.)

For the class of 2015, the top 30% of students scored an average of 138 points higher than the national average composite score. The 10% of students score an average of 222 points higher than the national average composite score.

The next three years will see expansive program growth at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Early Learning and Childcare Program will complete Maryland Excels certification. The school will implement a STEM program and will begin the STEM certification process in winter of 2017. The 2016/2017 school year will see the launch of a Sports Medicine education program in our high school. Increased marketing and fundraising efforts will occur to support all of the new programs.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School exists to serve students in an atmosphere that is permeated by a love of excellence, an appreciation of others, and a commitment to faith. As a community we strive to provide all of our stakeholders with a place where they can better themselves and the community as a whole.