



**January 26 – 31, 2020**



**Catholic Schools**  
**Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.**

An annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2020 remains “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Monday: Spirit Day, Dress in school colors Blue or Gold. Win a prize for the most creative! Winners will be chosen by Student Council.

Tuesday: PJ Day, Dress in your favorite PJ’s in exchange for a donation to Cradles to Crayons (new undergarments/socks or new to gently used Pajamas) no holiday themed or family themed PJ’s please. Leggings must be worn under nightgowns and no short shorts.

**ASSEMBLIES:**

Monday

Pre-K - TK, Blue Flower Children's Yoga, 9:15-12:15pm  
5-8th grades will write Kind Notes and assemble kits

Wednesday

K-4th, Mad Science 1:00-2:00pm  
5-8th, Stump Trivia 9-11:00am

Thursday

Movie Day, Movie selection is TBD

Friday

Ice Cream Social, Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream donated by the Sweeney family

**JANUARY EVENTS**

- 1/3** 1st Friday Mass, 9:00am
- 1/8** PTO Meeting, 7:00pm
- 1/17** PTO Tag Day (Free Dress)
- 1/20** NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day
- 1/25** Family Bingo Night
- 1/26 - 2/1** Catholic Schools Week
- Saturday: Family Bingo, 5:30-7:30pm
- Sunday: Family Mass, 9:00am
- Monday: Spirit Day (Blue & Gold)
- Tuesday: Pajama Day
- Wednesday: Assembly
- Thursday: Movie Day
- Friday: Ice Cream Social



**THANK YOU!**

As we begin the New Year excited about plans and resolutions for the upcoming months, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge so many who contributed to making 2019 such a great success. Thank you to Our Lady’s Academy families, faculty and parishioners for all your support last year! Breakfast with Santa was a success! A big thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make this event great!

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

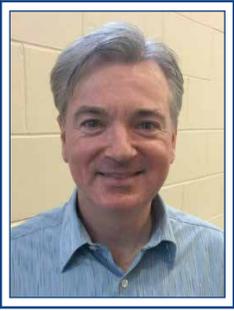
In the case of inclement weather Our Lady’s Academy follows the “No School” decision of the Waltham Public



Schools (if Waltham Public Schools are closed, then Our Lady’s Academy is closed; if Waltham Public Schools has a delayed opening, then the Academy has a delayed opening).

Announcements are made on the major radio and television stations and their websites (WBZ, WCRB, WRKO, and Channels 4, 5, and 7) and The Waltham Cable channel. A 2-hour delayed opening means that school starts at 10 am and school buses pick up students on their routes 2 hours later than normal.

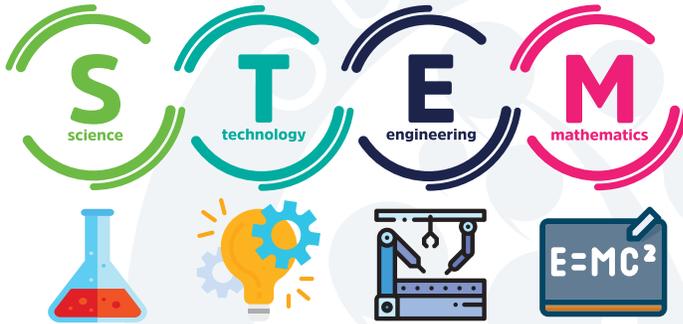
# Meet Our STEM Teachers



## Mr. Greg Dancer

I teach STEM to the 4th through 8th grades at OLA. I am an MIT-trained engineer who has spent much of his adult life in education or research. My first loves are my wife and son, and after them I love reading, running, photography, and traveling. In 2017 I began teaching for a Beijing-based company that runs winter and summer STEM camps in cities in China, and I have combined my interests in science and art to teach a STEM photography class there. My goals at OLA are to align our

STEM offerings with current science and engineering standards, to build up our resources for instruction in electronics, robotics and computation, and overall to equip our students with leading-edge skills that will support whatever paths they follow in high school and beyond. Be sure to read the attachment to find out what your children will be learning!



## Mrs. Ally Simons

Ally is thrilled to be teaching PreK - 3rd grade STEM at OLA this year! Watching my students make connections between what we learn in the classroom (we've done engineering, sound, force and motion and more!) and the real world has been wonderfully inspiring! The students at OLA are curious, determined and creative- my

goal is creating a curriculum that will allow students of all abilities to excel in STEM. I'm looking forward to all of the incredible things we'll learn together in 2020!

The PreK/TK students will be exploring weather, doing lots of hands-on winter STEM exploration and building upon the skills we've learned in 2019. The PreK/TK students are doing so wonderfully with using the materials appropriately, exploring creatively and embracing thinking abstractly!

In the first, second and third grade, we've learned about the engineering/design process in order to tackle several STEM challenges that promote collaboration and teamwork. These skills are foundational to a successful STEM program- by working together in small groups, these students learn how to communicate effectively, how to plan together and how to determine which materials to use and why. In January, the first graders will be diving into a Sound study which will align with the Next Gen Science Standards. The second graders will be learning about environments for living things. The third graders will be continuing their exploration of motion (following our force unit) and will then move into life cycles and inherited traits. This will segue us into our spring units all focusing on living things!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions/concerns/ideas for STEM in 2020!

## PASSIVE FUNDRAISING



Go to smile.amazon.com using your existing account and choose Our Lady's Academy for your charity.



Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip and send them to school.



Register your Stop & Shop BONUSCARD® to support OLA!

Lets build a stronger community for our children to thrive in! Please join us at our next PTO meeting.

**PTO Meeting**  
**January 8th @ 7:00pm**  
**Conference Room**  
**(across from the main office)**

[ptoboard@ourladyacademy.org](mailto:ptoboard@ourladyacademy.org)



[www.facebook.com/olawalthampto](http://www.facebook.com/olawalthampto)

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2/5 Early Dismissal, 11:30am
- 2/7 First Friday Mass, 9:00am
- 2/12 PTO Meeting, 7:00pm
- 2/14 PTO Tag Day (Free Dress)
- 2/17 - 2/21 NO SCHOOL  
February Break
- 2/26 Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30am