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# OLV Voice

A newsletter for families, friends, and graduates of OLVCS

May 2017

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School | 800 Westerly Parkway, State College | [olvcatholicsschool.org](http://olvcatholicsschool.org)

## What Parents Are Saying

"At OLV, the educational needs of the students—and their physical and spiritual well-being—are in the forefront."

"The teachers are phenomenal, the atmosphere is very friendly, and they offer good extracurricular activities that ALL kids can be involved in."

## 2017-18 Enrollment

At OLV, students don't just become excellent scholars—they become great citizens.

We empower young scholars to develop strong academic and leadership skills through a curriculum of Catholic virtue.

Are you interested in enrolling your child at OLV? Do you know a friend, neighbor, or co-worker who is?

Call or visit our website now for 2017-18 enrollment!

814.238.1592  
[www.olvcatholicsschool.org](http://www.olvcatholicsschool.org)

## Mission Statement

The mission of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School is to integrate Catholic truths, values and attitudes with the intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and physical development of our students. Our Lady of Victory Catholic School is committed to preparing children to live in the world as caring, productive citizens, life-long learners, and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

## Supporting Every Student's Journey

### Nurturing God-Given Talents in Arts & Athletics

At Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, we pride ourselves on providing a well-rounded experience for our students. We don't just teach what's in the textbooks, and test scores aren't all we care about. We let our students explore their faith—and each of their unique talents so they can become the best versions of themselves possible. It's our job to celebrate the unique gifts God gave to each of them and help them continue to develop those talents.

We're committed to supporting each student's journey. That's why we're bringing this special arts and athletics edition of OLV Voice to you.

Inside, you'll learn about the many unique opportunities our students have to use their artistic and athletic talents and where some of them are now thanks to OLV.

In faith,

Samantha Weakland  
Principal, Our Lady of Victory Catholic  
School



Samantha Weakland

## Two Annual Events Showcase Student Talent

### Art and Music Weekend May 25 & 26

#### Art Show

Annually, OLV hosts a themed art show, representing each student's best work selected by art teacher Heather McQueary. This year, the students are using fairy tales as inspiration for their art projects and will be showcasing them on **Thursday, May 25** and **Friday, May 26 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Upstairs Hallway Gallery. Visitors will see a variety of artwork, from pencil drawings focusing on realism to architectural letters and calligraphy.

#### Big Bad Musical

Led by music teacher, Sherry Capozzi, 23 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the stage to perform *Big Bad Musical* on **Thursday, May 25** and **Friday, May 26**. Both performances will begin at 6:30 p.m., following the Art Show. Tickets are available for purchase at the door.



In *Big Bad Musical*, the audience is the jury, deciding the outcome of the largest trial ever to take place in the fairy-tale world! Led by a group of storybook characters looking to get even, the Big Bad Wolf is slapped with a class-action lawsuit by those he has wronged, including Little Red Riding Hood, the Three Little Pigs, the Shepherd in charge of the Boy Who Cried Wolf, among others. With Sydney Grimm as the commentator on live Court TV, the two greatest legal minds in the Enchanted Forest—the Monsieur D'Arque and Fairy Godmother—clash at the trial that will forever be remembered. As our wronged fairy tale characters testify, the Wolf seems deserving of all that's coming to him. Yet, he makes a good case for himself. Was he born a criminal, or made one? The audience themselves will decide!

"*Big Bad Musical* is a wickedly funny musical great for actors and audiences of any age," says Capozzi. "People young and old will enjoy this comical musical as they take a stroll down memory lane with their favorite fairy-tale character."

# From OLV to PSU

## Lifelong Bond of Four Friends That Started Right Here

For Alex Novack, Andrew Kelly, Gavin Rallis, and Nick Venturino, sticking together for a lifetime is now a no-brainer. After all, they've already been best friends for most of their lives. Together they've attended three schools, played thousands of hours of sports, and lived for three years as roommates. And it's all thanks to their time at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School.

All four boys agree that their bond took root through sports at OLV—first on the playground (where Gavin says he is 95% sure they were undefeated champs), and later through team sports. There was no question that they all shared a similar passion from an early age, and through an array of sports that included basketball, soccer, football, and baseball, a one-of-a-kind friendship developed.

***“I wouldn't be who I am today without OLV.”***

“We definitely grew close because of our love for sports, and then found out that we all had a lot in common,” says Gavin.

“Still to this day, we are constantly watching and playing sports together,” says Alex.

These four friends are now at Penn State. Though Andrew and Alex were the only two to room together as freshman, it didn't take long before the whole group was reunited. The four moved in together for their sophomore year and have been living together ever since.

“We all decided that it would be weird for us not to be around each other all the time,” Alex explains. “It has been the best three years, living together.”

“We are basically brothers at this point,”

says Andrew. “Or the closest thing to family, after being this close for so long.”

Andrew jokes that they do also fight like brothers sometimes, but still have each other's backs no matter the circumstance.

For the past several years, they have stayed involved with OLV by volunteering as coaches for the HOOPS program. Their own positive experiences with the program are what inspired them to give back.

“The HOOPS program gave me so much,” says Alex. “Throughout elementary school, that's how we would spend our Saturdays. We would get there early in the morning and spend our whole day there, up to—and even after—our games were done.”

The program was one of the many school experiences that was pivotal in growing their friendship, and it's that same value that they have tried to pass onto their young OLV players.

“Our main goal is for the kids to have a good time playing basketball with the kids they are growing up with,” says Andrew. “Those are the memories that stick.”

By this time next year, all four friends will be graduated from Penn State and onto the next chapter. Gavin, Alex, and Nick will complete internships this summer at a Boston hospital, Unilever, and ProCamps, respectively. Andrew plans to attend dental school, while Gavin's ultimate goal is medical school. It's clear that there are very bright futures ahead for all four. And whatever



Gavin, Alex, Andrew, and Nick

comes their way, they can all be sure of each other.

“No matter what is going on in our lives, I know these three guys will always be there for me,” says Nick.

For that, they all express how thankful they are to OLV—not just for the sports that brought them together, but for the values and environment that set them up to *stay* together.

“OLV taught me to value relationships with people around me,” Andrew says. “It taught me to surround myself with good people.”

“I think the biggest thing that OLV gave to me is the friendships,” Alex confirms. “I think we will never lose the OLV bond and friendships we made there.”

“I'm thankful to OLV for helping me find three lifelong friends in these guys,” says Gavin.

“I wouldn't be who I am today without OLV,” says Nick.

Andrew Kelly

**Major:** Biotechnology

**Penn State activities:**

Undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Jeffrey Peters

**Favorite OLV teacher:**

Mrs. Brandimarte and Mrs. Butler

Alex Novack

**Major:** Management Information Systems

**Penn State activities:**

Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity

**Favorite OLV teacher:**

Mrs. Butler

Gavin Rallis

**Major:** Biology with focus in Vertebrate Physiology

**Penn State activities:**

Club Lacrosse; Undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Jeffrey Peters; THON

**Favorite OLV teacher:**

Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Rio Carson

Nick Venturino

**Major:** Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management with focus in community and commercial recreation

**Penn State activities:**

Student equipment manager for Penn State football

**Favorite OLV teacher:**

Mrs. Brandimarte and Mrs. Butler

# Students Benefit from Unique Opportunities in Arts

## Programs Thriving Under Exceptional Leadership

Art is alive and well at OLV, thanks in large part to teachers Heather McQueary and Sherry Capozzi. With unique assignments, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to making sure art has a place in the curriculum, these educators are leading the way to a well-rounded student experience.

Art teacher Heather McQueary is known for focusing on the process, rather than the product.



Mrs. McQueary with a 5th grade student

She has a degree in Art Education and has been developing her teaching philosophy for the last 12 years.

“I believe I bring a sense of humility to my teaching,” she says. “I try hard to understand where my students are coming from and what challenges they experience in the creative process.”

Known for her unique assignments, McQueary likes to challenge her students.

“Our jelly bean mosaic of Roy Lichtenstein’s *Girl with Hair Ribbon* will always be a favorite,” she says, laughing. “Just convincing the kids to glue the beans down and stop eating them was difficult!”

Meanwhile, she has confidence in her older students’ abilities to challenge themselves.

“I always love teaching my middle school students to do something complex,” she says. “They amaze themselves at the work they can accomplish. It is so fulfilling to see them meet success.”

McQueary wouldn’t want to teach



Mrs. Capozzi working with the 2nd grade students

anywhere but OLV.

“My students are without a doubt the shiniest part of my day,” she says. “I love teaching in a school where it’s OK to pray and support each other, with a strong and unified faith in God.”

Music teacher Sherry Capozzi is also known for her unique approach to bringing the joy of music to her students.

*Continued on page 4*

## Budding Art Career Has Roots at OLV

### Lindsay Cousins Makes a Name in the Fashion World

For OLV alumna Lindsay Cousins, expressing herself through art has always been part of who she is. Beginning as early as elementary school, Lindsay was drawn to the opportunities provided at OLV to explore her passion.



Lindsay Cousins

“The OLV art programs really helped encourage me by offering opportunities to explore creative projects outside of our weekly art classes, like Catholic School Week poster contests and art nights,” she says. “I felt like my interest in art was valued and nurtured at OLV.”

Lindsay remembers working tirelessly to paint the sets for the school plays with her

mom, to whom she attributes much of her talents.

“She has always been a creative person,” Lindsay says. “She has a gift for painting, drawing, writing, mixed media, interior design, and blogging, to name just some. I think my sisters and I picked up on her creativity and utilized it in different ways.”

For Lindsay, finding her niche took some time.

“I continued on a creative path in high school,” she says. “I took drawing classes and found a passion for photography. Everything I learned through my elementary, middle school, and high school classes built upon each other.”

With such a wide range of ability, Lindsay found it difficult to have a clear focus at graduation, but knew that the foundation she had built at OLV and in high school were enough to pursue a career in art.

“I started attending Savannah College of Art and Design in 2016 with an undeclared major, but an interest in photography and

advertising,” she says. “It quickly shifted to fashion marketing and finally fashion design. The exploration taught me to be resilient to setbacks and to embrace change and versatility.”

***“I felt like my interest in art was valued and nurtured at OLV.”***

Today, Lindsay is a concept design assistant for Free People, a specialty women’s clothing brand, a job that she says gives her the opportunity to use her many creative talents and skills.

“I love that I get to use a variety of skills from day to day—creating visually appealing trend books to sewing mock-ups and styling looks. It takes a lot of creative thinking, problem solving, and a refined eye, but I am really enjoying the process.”

***To learn more about Lindsay’s career in fashion design, visit her website at [www.lindsaycousins.com](http://www.lindsaycousins.com).***



# OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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## Nurturing God-Given Talents in Arts & Athletics

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### Calling All Alumni

#### Where Are You Now?

As we continually work to update our database and improve our communications, our alumni are the most important people on the list.



We're proud to count so many talented and successful individuals as alumni.

We want to stay in touch with you, keep you updated on what's happening at OLV today, and learn what's new with you—your career, family, successes, and more! You are, after all, part of the OLV family. We look forward to hearing from you and to publishing your news in a future issue of *OLV Voice*.

Email your updates to our alumni relations partner at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com), and mention OLV.

### Know Someone Who Should Be Receiving *OLV Voice*?

Do you know someone who should—or wants to—receive our bi-annual editions of *OLV Voice*? If so, send their contact information, along with details of their relationship with Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com). We will add them to our mailing list!

### Students Benefit... *Continued from page 3*

“At OLV, children are encouraged at whatever stage they are musically,” she says. “For example, just learning to play a steady beat is challenging for some, while others need a complex rhythm. Music class is a time where all children can come together and be expressive through music. It doesn't matter where they are academically—music puts everyone on the same playing field, where each student gets to be an individual.”

At OLV, the benefits of music are well recognized, and Capozzi is grateful for the support the program has.

“It has been proven that children who study music have increased test scores,” she says. “Music learning supports ALL learning. It's not that Mozart makes you smarter, but music improves attention, memory, and even your ability to do mental math. It can also help lessen depression and anxiety.”

Even though she has only been teaching music at OLV for two years, Capozzi brings experience to the classroom as a musician.

“The musician in me developed over several years. By high school, everything I

was a part of revolved around music—every play and musical, as well as two choirs and band.”

Naturally, Capozzi was drawn to teaching, to share her passion for music with others and giving them something long after they've left OLV.

“My goal is to teach my students something they can take outside the classroom and continue to use for the rest of their lives.”