

**MS. CASEY MCCORMICK &
MS. LINDA MCKAY
5TH - 8TH GRADE MATH**

Ms. Casey McCormick mccormick@olaparish.net
Ms. Linda McKay mckay@olaparish.net

Grouping

Students have been grouped based on standardized test scores, previous performance in math, and an assessment test that was given at the beginning of the year. Students in 5th, 6th and 7th grade may change groups at the discretion of the teachers. 8th grade students generally remain in their groups for the entire year.

Problem Solving

Problem solving gives students the opportunity to apply the mathematics they are learning to a problem-solving situation and to communicate their mathematical thinking to others. The process requires students to organize, clarify, and reflect on their ideas—all useful processes for making sense of mathematics. In addition, when students write, their papers provide a window into their understandings, their misconceptions, and their feelings about the content they're learning. Students will work together as an entire class during problem solving activities. These problem-solving sessions will occur about once a month.

Common Core & Acuity

The diocese has adopted the California Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Math. These standards will provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. Consistent Standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students. As we did last year, we will be assessing student progress using the standards-based assessment program, Acuity. All students in grades three through eight will be formally assessed four times a year. This data will give our Catholic School Department, principals, teachers, and parents the ability to monitor and measure students' progress throughout the year so your child remains on target.

School Speak and Optional Tutoring

Nightly homework assignments are posted to the classroom homework calendar on School Speak. Students should check nightly to make sure they have completed the assigned homework. I am available to provide extra help for students on Mondays and Wednesdays during the lunch break. Students may stop in for as little as 5 minutes or the full 45 minutes during these lunch periods.

