

One of the Best in the Nation

OLV Named United States Dept. of Education Blue Ribbon School

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School has been selected to receive the most prestigious education award in the country. The U.S. Department of Education has named Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School a 2011 Blue Ribbon School. This award distinguishes Our Lady of the Valley



(OLV) for its excellence in teaching, curriculum, student achievement, leadership, professional development, parent involvement, and community support.

The U.S. Dept. of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap. OLV is receiving the honor as a "High Performing" school. "High performing" means that the achievement of the school's students



students cheer as the banner is held in the background

places it among the highest performing schools in the nation in reading and mathematics. The extensive application process closely examined a number of factors including student achievement, curriculum, professional development, school leadership, and culture.

In announcing the award U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said, "America's long-term economic prosperity and civic engagement depends on our children receiving a world-class education." "National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow."

Since 1982, the U. S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools. A Blue Ribbon School flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence, a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. OLV will be honored and presented with its award at a ceremony in Washington D.C. by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on November 14-15, 2011. In keeping with the school's unique approach to learning, OLV



6th graders were surprised by the announcement and Blue Ribbon t-shirts while at the Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville

will have a school-wide learning unit centered on and celebrating its Blue Ribbon honor on Thursday, November 17th.

Out of more than 132,000 public and private schools in the United States, 305 schools will receive the Blue Ribbon award this year. OLV is the only private school in Alabama receiving the award this year and one of 49 private schools in the Country to receive this U.S. Dept. of Education honor. OLV is exceptional in that it is a two-time winner of the award, having first received it in 1998-1999, and it is the sole recipient of this prestigious honor in the Diocese of Birmingham.

"This honor recognizes dedicated faculty who set high academic standards, outstanding students who, with the love and encouragement of their families, achieve those goals, alumni and parents who support the school, and a community who remains committed to the school's mission," stated Sandra Roden, Principal. "Receipt of this award inspires us to even greater achievements," she continued.

Rev. Msgr. Paul Rohling, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley noted that the award represents a tremendous achievement. "Receiving this award is an honor. I am so proud of what our principal, faculty, students, parents, and faith community have collectively accomplished." He continued, "Catholic education is the hallmark of



during the assembly students danced in excitement

our faith, and the reason why so many of our students have excelled in college and in their personal life."