West Parish at St. Ann's and O'Maley
Frequently Asked Questions

Hours of Operation

West Parish at St. Ann's K-4 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

West Parish at O'Maley Gr. 5 9:05 AM to 3:05 PM

Visiting St. Ann's

Will there be an opportunity for the parents/students to visit St. Ann's before the school year begins so that we can familiarize ourselves with where our children will be during construction of the new West Parish?

It is anticipated that the city will sign the lease with St. Ann's in early March. Construction will begin immediately to allow St. Ann's to be ready for teachers and students to move in prior to the 2014 2015 school year. As soon as construction is complete and furnishings have been moved in, an opportunity to visit West Parish at St. Ann's School will be arranged and we will try to include a fun-family event for the occasion. This will be in August.

Visiting O'Maley Innovation Middle School

In late May or early June, the Grade 5 teachers will take the incoming Grade 5 students to O'Maley for a site visit similar to the visit for incoming sixth-graders. The site visit will be on a separate day from Grade 6, and will be conducted specifically for West Parish Grade 5. A visit will also be planned for parents at that time as well. The visit to O'Maley will familiarize visitors with the building. However, the furniture for the fifth grade classrooms will not have been moved from West Parish until after the school year concludes.

Staffing and Student Support

Ms. Imel will remain the Principal for West Parish students at both St. Ann's and O'Maley. Ms. Imel, Mrs. Briley, the School Adjustment Counselor, and Ms. Morris, the School Psychologist will have their offices at St. Ann's, but they will be available to meet with Grade 5 students as they will regularly be on site at O'Maley.

The O'Maley Principal, Mrs. Lucey, will also provide support as needed to the Grade 5 community. The nurses at O'Maley will provide health services for the Grade 5 students and O'Maley office staff will be responsible for admitting students who arrive late and dismissing students early.

The Grade 5 classrooms will have phones which dial directly to either the O'Maley or WP/St. Ann's offices as well as to all teachers at St. Ann's.

In addition to the 3 Grade 5 teachers, a Special Education teacher will be housed at O'Maley. Additional paraprofessional support will also provide instructional support along with lunch and recess supervision for the students housed at O'Maley.

At this point in the development of the daily schedule, it is believed that West Parish specialists (art, music and physical education) will be able to provide instruction for students at both sites.

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Before School Program

Could the before school program start earlier to account for increased commuting time from downtown with rotary traffic, as opposed to parent getting on the highway at exit 14? Will 5th graders who attend the before school program at St. Ann's be placed on a bus to O'Maley?

The Before School Program will be held daily starting the second week of school at St. Ann's. The program will be held in the second floor activity room/cafeteria. The program will begin at 7:45 AM—15 minutes earlier than the current situation—for Kindergarten through Gr. 5 students, with no change in cost. Any fifth grade student participating in the before school program at St. Ann's will be escorted to a bus and driven to O'Maley.

After School Program

Will the YMCA after school program take place at the YMCA or at St. Ann's? How will 5th graders be transported from O'Maley to the YMCA program?

The YMCA afterschool program will likely be held at the downtown YMCA; it is unlikely that the YMCA program will be at St. Ann's. YMCA management is currently working with their licensors to determine the best location for the West Parish after-school program (at the YMCA) for the next two school years. The YMCA management is confident that they will be able to transport any fifth-grade students who regularly participate in the after-school program to the West Parish after-school program site.

Transportation

District and school administrators are working with city officials regarding current and future traffic patterns around St. Ann's. Arrival and dismissal procedures will be reviewed and adjusted throughout the first several months of school. What follows is the current working plan for transporting Kindergarten through Grade 5 students.

Busses

All West Parish students, who live in the West Parish catchment area, will be provided the opportunity to take the bus to and from school ***free of charge***. Currently, West Parish has five bus routes. We will be increasing that number to seven busses and seven bus routes. We anticipate sharing the description of the new bus routes including times with West Parish families in late spring, and we will be encouraging families to sign up for bus transportation prior to the end of this school year. ***We highly encourage families to utilize school busses as frequently as possible during the two-year transition period. Transportation via bus will be the most convenient, safe, and efficient mode of transportation. Downtown traffic is an issue.***

In the morning, busses will pick up all students, K-Gr. 5, and drop off Kindergarten through Grade 4 students at St. Ann's first, and then the Grade 5 students will be driven to O'Maley. In the afternoon, busses will load at St. Ann's first and then go to O'Maley.

Walkers

Any parents who plan for their child(ren) to walk to and from school should provide a letter of permission at the beginning of the year. West Parish currently does not have any students who are truly walkers and West Parish staff currently does not release students without seeing the person assigned to pick up the student.

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Arrival/ Drop-Off

Parents dropping off their children in the morning will pull onto Pleasant Street, and students will exit the car. If parents need to enter the building, they will need to park their cars, but **not** on Pleasant Street. There is currently a crossing guard at the corners of Prospect and Maplewood, and it is anticipated that a crossing guard will be added at the corners of Prospect and Pleasant.

Dismissal/ Pick-Up

At dismissal, will there be a pickup line or walkers line and where? Many children have 3:30pm activities, many of which are out of town.

Dismissal is likely to be the greatest challenge of the selected transition space (St. Ann's). Due to downtown congestion and a focus on ensuring student safety, pickup for K-4 students will be at O'Maley Innovation Middle School. At 3 PM, all students attending West Parish at St. Ann's will be assigned to one of the seven busses. Upon arrival at O'Maley, school staff will assist students exiting the bus and those student will be escorted to their parents or caretakers. **K-5 Pick-up will take place in the same location**. Over the summer, a map will be sent to each family which will show where busses will park and where cars should park while waiting for students.

Recognizing that families have different needs, school administration will work individually with families as needed. Any family needing to pick up their child at St. Ann's will have to wait until all the buses have been loaded and are on their way to O'Maley. We are going to need families' assistance on this arrangement so that the process will work.

Parking

Where will parents park?

Parents who visit St. Ann's will need to find parking on the street.

What will be the impact on West Parish when the church has large events, like funerals?

Funerals held at St. Ann's are typically scheduled to start no earlier than 9:30 or 10:00 AM and therefore should not interfere with arrival or dismissal.

Other- Meal Service, Specialist Classes Etc.

	West Parish at St. Ann's	**West Parish at O'Maley**
Breakfast	School breakfast will be available daily in the activity room/cafeteria. It is likely that for the first few weeks, it will be a cold breakfast i.e. cereal, muffins, yogurt etc.	School breakfast will be available daily in the cafeteria.
Lunch	School lunch will be available daily in the activity room/cafeteria. There is no kitchen at St. Ann's but hot lunches will be prepared at O'Maley daily and delivered to the school.	Grade 5 students are scheduled to attend their own lunch block at O'Maley each day. O'Maley students have a rotating lunch but West Parish fifth-graders will have a static schedule. The fifth grade will sit together and be supervised by West Parish staff.

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Recess	West Parish noon supervisors will prepare Burnham's Field each day for recess by checking for trash and marking allowable play areas for students. Noon supervisors and kindergarten assistants will escort students to and from the school building as they do currently. The courtyard area at St. Ann's will not be used for recess as the fence is not tall enough to stop balls from entering the busy streets. During inclement weather, students will have recess in the classroom.	Fifth-graders will have recess following lunch. This will allow them to have the play area to themselves. West Parish staff will supervise recess. During inclement weather, students will have recess in the classroom or the cafeteria .
Art	There is a classroom dedicated to Art.	Art will likely take place in Grade 5 classrooms.
Library	We are planning to have books available for students to check out at St. Ann's. There is not a dedicated library space. Books, however, will be available on carts at each level. A librarian from the Sawyer Free Library will be attending the March PTO meeting to discuss services that the library could make available to West Parish students while we are housed at St. Ann's.	Fifth-graders will have access to the O'Maley library as well as their classroom teachers substantial classroom libraries.
Computer	The current computer lab will be dispersed across classrooms; there is no computer lab space available at St. Ann's. This year, each classroom was provided either four Chromebooks or 2 iPads. The Mac Mini's from our existing computer lab will be added to classrooms. Students will still have access to Lexia.	Fifth graders will have the opportunity to use the computer and stem labs at O'Maley. The teachers look forward to maximizing these resources. This year, each classroom was provided four Chromebooks and students will continue to have access to Lexia.
Physical Education	Physical education classes will take place either in the activity room/cafeteria, which will be similar in size to the West Parish gymnasium, or outside on Burnham's Field, when weather permits.	Physical education classes will likely take place in the gym at O'Maley. Ms. Lucey and Ms. Imel are working on shared space scheduling.
Music	Music classes will take place in the students' regular education classroom.	Music classes will take place in the students' regular education classroom. It is possible Music classes may be held in the cafeteria.

More….West Parish at O'Maley

West Parish Fifth Graders at O'Maley are still West Parish students. They will have all of the opportunities that other classes have had as part of the Grade 5 activities, including a Fifth Grade Play, Nature's Classroom, the Mad Hot Ball, a Yearbook, a Fifth Grade Walk, and a Fifth Grade Picnic. Fifth graders will also participate in the West Parish Field Day.

How often will 5th graders be going to St. Ann's and for what purpose (assemblies, enrichment, etc.)?

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The fifth grade teachers are working with the principal to develop a number of activities where the K-5 community gets together at St. Ann's. The goal is for Grade 5 students to be at St. Ann's at least once a month. Activities are likely to include the following: reading buddies with younger students, school assemblies, Field Day, and the Fifth Grade Walk.

Will our 5th graders be able to participate in any O'Maley after school programs?

The O'Maley schedule and the West Parish at St. Ann's schedule are different with O'Maley after school programs beginning at 2:20; therefore this is not possible.

Will the fifth graders be separate from sixth graders?

The West Parish fifth grade classrooms will be in the sixth-grade wing. Schedules for Grade 5 and Grade 6 will be significantly different. Those schedules will limit student interactions. The fifth grade teachers are excited to have the opportunity to work alongside sixth-grade teachers allowing them to best prepare Grade 5 students for their "middle school years".

Will the special education be on site?

Yes. A special education teacher will be on site daily at O'Maley. A speech language pathologist will be shared between O'Maley and St. Ann's. And, most IEP meetings for fifth grade students will be held at O'Maley.

More….West Parish at St. Ann's

What work is being done to improve St. Ann's?

The summary of work at St. Ann's is as follows:

- New fire alarm system
- New emergency lighting in specific locations
- New IP cameras (Internet Programmable) on exterior doors for security with a central monitoring station in the Main Office
- All new hardware for classroom doors (security)
- New white marker and tack boards in classrooms (moved from West Parish)
- Wheelchair stair lift
    - Access to building
    - 4x4 platform for basement and first floor
- Additional coat hooks
- Some partition modifications to make sure there are separate spaces for literacy coach and speech areas
- Modifying boys and girls toilets and men's and women's toilets for handicapped accessibility
- Creating teacher work rooms and office space
- Full coat of paint throughout the building
- Buildout of classrooms in the gym area
- Install Wireless access points throughout the building (GPS IT responsibility)
- Minor modifications on heating and electrical to make sure they are in good working order

- Properly identified areas for parking for the parish

School Choice

Students who have "choiced" to West Parish have a right to remain in the West Parish community and will not be asked to return to their home school unless there are issues of tardiness or absenteeism.

West Parish families considering "choicing out" of West Parish for the two-year transition period are not guaranteed re-enrollment. If class size is large (over 22 Students per class), the district may choose to place your child in another district school and provide you transportation.

Special Events at WP/St. Ann's and O'Maley

The activity room/cafeteria will allow for many of the school assemblies. In addition, we are working with the City and the library to secure the City Hall Auditorium and/or Community Room at the Sawyer Free Library for occasions when those spaces seem more appropriate. The PTO Enrichment Coordinator will continue to work closely with teachers and with Ms. Imel to plan meaningful school and grade-level events.

Utilizing Downtown Resources

Being in Downtown Gloucester provides tremendous opportunities to West Parish students whether they are at St. Ann's or O'Maley. The in-district field trip form will be distributed to families in the fall. Signing this form will allow classroom teachers (with appropriate supervision) to take students on walking field trips. Going to the Sawyer Free Library or to the YMCA will not be part of the weekly West Parish Schedule, but as these and other sites are nearby, they provide enrichment opportunities for the West Parish community.