



Office of Catholic Schools Newsletter

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Education for a Lifetime

Archdiocese of Hartford

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The mission of the Office of Catholic Schools is to further the advancement of Catholic education for students in the Archdiocese of Hartford by providing service, support, guidance, and direction to pastors, presidents, principals, teachers, boards, parents, and other stakeholders of Catholic schools.

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEBSITE:

www.adh-ocs.org

[SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE](#)

Is There a Need for Change in your School?

Consider this:

At the parent/student/teacher conferences, there were some serious concerns raised about too much homework in mathematics. The principal had noticed that standardized test scores in mathematics had fallen below last year's percentile. Teachers felt there was minimal time to adequately plan and teach the standards-based curriculum and were feeling overwhelmed.

The principal recognized this dilemma and acknowledged a need for change. The principal began to develop a plan for conversations as part of the professional learning communities taking place in the school. The faculty was asked to examine three key questions pertaining to the teaching of mathematics: In what areas could changes be made? What would be necessary to implement the plan for change? How would the effectiveness of the changes be measured?

The answers to these questions can be complex and require risks that are innovative and challenging in order to affect the basic teaching of mathematics. It is in these everyday dilemmas that we must be asking these same three questions as part of the educational process, if our schools are to remain excellent.

As educators, we have a grand vision for Catholic schools in the 21st century. However, it will take a sincere openness to change, collaborative planning, risk taking, and prayer to meet the differential and pragmatic needs of the students we serve.

As we celebrate this month of **THANKSGIVING**, we remember all the tremendous Catholic educators who have gone before us - they too had their challenges and opportunities for change. May you

always have an open mind and heart to vital changes so that our ministry will continue to prosper, and we remain faithful to our *Vision*. Thank you for your remarkable work in Catholic schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Request for Prayers for the:

Rest of the soul of **Donald Labrie**, the father of Diane Ferrick. Mrs. Ferrick is a first grade teacher at **Saint Martha School, Enfield**. May Donald Labrie's soul rest in peace!

Rest of the soul of **Louise B. Romanov**. Louise Romanov retired in 1995 as a teacher in the New Haven area Catholic schools. May her soul rest in peace!

Rest of the soul of **William Shea**, the husband of Fay Shea, the former Administrative Assistant to the President of **Northwest Catholic High School**. Fay worked for approximately six years for Rev. Henry C. Frascadore and Dr. Michael Griffin. The Northwest Catholic School community and Staff of the Office of Catholic Schools extend their deepest sympathy and prayers to Mrs. Shea. May Bill Shea's soul rest in peace!

ADMINISTRATION

2008 Administrators Convocation: Mark your calendars for August 14 and 15 (Thursday and Friday) at Water's Edge Resort for the 2008 Administrators Convocation. The theme will be *Servant Leadership*. More information will be forthcoming in the spring of 2008.

2008 Catholic Educators Conference: The 2008 Catholic Educators Conference is scheduled for October 21 and 22 at St. Paul Catholic High School. Please mark your calendars.

Vocation Wall of Fame: The purpose of this designated wall is to recognize those men and women who graduated from a Catholic school and chose for their vocation the ordained or religious life. The Archdiocesan Director of Vocations, Rev. Michael Dolan [860.286.7670, dolan@hartford.edu], has graciously agreed to assist schools with the historical data of clergy in order to institute a *Vocation Wall of Fame*. The blessing of such a wall during Catholic schools month may coincide with a day for recognizing and encouraging vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated religious life.

Reception for Administrator Candidates: Next Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., the Office of Catholic Schools is hosting its 2nd annual informational reception for those interested in serving as administrators in our Catholic schools. Principals are reminded to notify Sister Loretta Francis Mann regarding those teachers planning to attend.

Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools: Emphasizing its focus on children, the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) would like to use children's art for their Christmas cards again this year. The contest to determine the winning design is for students in grades 1 – 8 and the theme is *The Three Kings Follow the Star*. Submissions should be on 8½ x 11 inch paper and can be in crayon, paint, or marker. Please encourage colorful designs. The name of the student submitting the winning entry will be printed on the back of each card along with the name of his/her school. The student will receive a boxed set of their Christmas cards! To be considered, **all entries must be received on or before Wednesday, November 21** and mailed to: Christmas Card Contest,

Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

CURRICULUM

School Web Sites: EduConnect, as an existing technology partner of the Office of Catholic Schools, is now packaging a program to help schools with their websites. Tim Hannon can create a website for schools that do not have one, host a site, or improve an existing website using his software. The cost is extremely reasonable. If you would like more information, please contact Tim Hannon at 1.913.384.6701 or timhannon@educonnect.com or Valerie Mara at VMara@adh-ocs.org.

Catholic School Spelling Bee: All schools are encouraged to participate in this time-honored tradition of our Catholic schools, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The deadline to inform State Chairman, Ron Scovill, of your school's participation is **December 21, 2007**. You should have received information in the mail. If not, Ron can be reached at 860.745.6541.

Northeast ASCD Affiliate Conference: This is an invaluable conference for all elementary and high school educators! The topic is *Leading and Learning: Sustaining Learning Communities*. It will be held at Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA on November 30 and December 1, 2007. Some of the guest speakers include Rick and Becky Dufour, Nancy Love, and Willard Daggett. You can register online at www.neascd.org/register.

Professional Learning: The webpage for the Curriculum Department of the Office of Catholic Schools has been updated. Click on *Resources* to access a list of excellent literary titles and PowerPoint Presentations to direct your professional learning or to use with your faculty. If you would like to suggest particular selections for the website, please forward information to Valerie Mara at vmara@adh-ocs.org, to further the culture of professional learning throughout the Archdiocese.

Office Catholic Schools' Curriculum Library: If you have not visited the Office of Catholic Schools' curriculum library recently, it may be well worth your while to set aside a time to explore the many periodicals, magazines, and literary publications on display. Beginning in December, all the publishing companies will have provided their most current editions and newest materials from the *Archdiocesan Approved Textbook List* for your perusal. Call ahead to Maria Maynard or Valerie Mara at 860.242.4362 to browse these selections at your leisure!

SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT

Open House Promotion: The January edition of *The Catholic Transcript* will list, by town and school, the open house dates scheduled during *Catholic Schools Month*. Please send your information by **November 19** to Diane Newell, Administrative Assistant to Anne Clubb, at dnewell@adh-ocs.org, to ensure that your school is listed. Please be as accurate as possible when providing the information. An example follows:

Ansonia – Assumption – Tuesday, January 29, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

West Hartford – St. Thomas the Apostle, every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon or by appointment.

Office of Catholic School Christmas Reception: Please plan to join us for the *Office of Catholic Schools Christmas Reception*, scheduled for **Tuesday, December 4, 2007** in the Alumni Lounge of the

Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Invitations to this festive event will be going out later this week, so save the date on your calendar! (You can refer to the invitation right now by checking the Office of Catholic Schools website.) This special evening gives us a chance to express our appreciation for all who work so hard for our Catholic schools. Pastors, principals, administrators, staff, and volunteers from our Catholic schools are all invited to be a part of the holiday cheer. (Please note that spouses and friends are also most welcome.) Do not miss the opportunity to usher in the Christmas season with great food, lovely music, and wonderful company at this annual reception. To RSVP, call the School Advancement Department by **November 26**.

High School Reminder: High school administrators are reminded to respond to the Superintendent's request for information regarding each school's Class of 2007. The information will be used in the *High School Highlights* section of the *2007 Annual Report* published by the Office of Catholic Schools and included in the February issue of the *Catholic Transcript*. Help us share your successes and market your schools more effectively by submitting the information to Anne Clubb at aclubb@adh-ocs.org before the deadline date of **November 19**. The requested information includes the following: top five Ivy League universities attended; top ten most attended colleges/universities; total amount of scholarship dollars received; total number of National Merit, AP and Governor's Scholars; number of students in the National Honor Society; and total amount of financial aid distributed to students in 2006 – 2007.

SCHOOL FINANCES

As a follow-up to the Fall Advancement/Financial Workshop, there are extra copies available of the *Cost-Based Tuition and Need-Based Tuition Aid* presentation by Donna Moss and *An Overview* by Mike McCormick on DVD. Please email Ken Przysiecki at kprzysiecki@adh-ocs.org, if you would like a copy of either DVD for presentation to your finance committees.

CALENDAR

***Additions since the last Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) Newsletter**

Due Dates

Past Due **Elementary/Middle School Curriculum Coordinators form** due to Valerie Mara
Past Due **Textbook Inventory** due to Valerie Mara
Past Due **Elementary School Compilation Reports for the year ended June 2007** due to Ken Przysiecki

November*

9 **ED 159 Non Public School Report**, Copy to Connecticut State Department of Education, Data Collections Unit and copy to Office of Catholic Schools
19 **Schedule of Open House Dates** for Catholic Schools Month to Anne Clubb/Diane Newell
19 **High School Class of 2007 Data** for the Annual Report to Anne Clubb
21 **Entries for the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools Christmas Card Contest** to Shirley Ziolkowski

Upcoming Events

November

- 1** **All Saints Day** (Holy Day of Obligation)
 - 2** **All Souls Day**
 - 6** **Fine Arts Committee Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - 6** **Catholic School Leadership Reception**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, 6:30 p.m.
 - 8** **NE CACE Administrators In-service**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - 13*** **Asbestos Awareness and Training Session**, St. Vincent de Paul School, East Haven, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
 - 13*** **Lures Training Session**, St. Thomas the Apostle School, West Hartford, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
 - 14*** **Lures Training Session**, Our Lady of Victory School, West Haven, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
 - 15*** **Lures Training Session**, SS. Peter and Paul School, Waterbury, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
 - 15** **National Catholic Educational Association Principal Appreciation (NCEA) Day**
 - 22 – 23** **Thanksgiving Holiday** (Office of Catholic Schools Closed)
 - 26** **Office of Catholic Schools, Office of Religious Education, and the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Education Advent Retreat Day** (Office of Catholic Schools Closed)
 - 28** **Principal Advisory Council for Elementary (PACE) Schools Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, followed by lunch in the main dining room
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Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person: The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation for all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

— United States Catholic Conference of Bishops

The information in this newsletter is for the use of the administrators, pastors, faculty, and boards. Principals are requested to forward information to appropriate persons. Requests for inserts into the OCS Newsletter can be made to Gayle Keene, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, gkeene@adh-ocs.org.