



## Monthly Messenger – May 2021

Monthly Newsletter from the Secretary of Elementary Education



### Message from Dr. Andrew McLaughlin

Dear Teachers.

Spring has begun to show its beauty and bring with it the hope of a brighter future! This time last year we were collecting students' pictures and drawings honoring Mary as we prepared for our "virtual" May Procession. Unlike last year, though, we are looking forward to completing a full year of school. Together, we've faced many challenges and together, we've risen above the challenges and can hold our heads high and be proud of our accomplishments. This year has been a learning experience for all, and we have come through it with the realizations that:

- ***Some things have not changed.*** We are still social-distancing and wearing masks. We are still trying to help our students master basic skills. We are still being challenged by those who may not agree with our principals or approaches to learning.
- ***Some things have changed.*** We have embraced the concept of virtual learning for both students and teachers. We have "Zoomed" into meetings and workshops. We have shifted our focus more clearly to recognize the importance of inclusion, of social and emotional learning, and of focusing on our Catholic Identity even at a distance.
- ***Some things will never change.*** Our values will not change; our love for our students will remain constant; our dedication to the mission of Catholic Education will continue to be a light in the darkness to an unsettled world. This is all possible because of our faith.

In 1912, a hymn was written honoring Mary that has been passed down through many generations and is still used by some today. The beginning lines of the hymn read, "*Tis the month of our Mother—the blessed and beautiful*

*days. . .*” May is a month when we honor all of those who have “mothered” all of God’s children just as Mary cared for the special Child of God entrusted to her, Jesus. As teachers, you walk in Mary’s footsteps, modeling for your students the virtues that Mary modeled for us. Help them this month to honor all of their caregivers, not just with a special recognition on Mother’s Day or Memorial Day but every day in May. Make all of these days of May be *blessed* ones ! May they also be *beautiful*! Just as the month of May begins with National Teacher Appreciation Week-- begin with yourselves first, teachers. Because you do what you do—in God’s eyes--you **are blessed**! You **are beautiful**! We **do** appreciate you!

God bless you.

*Dr. Andrew McLaughlin*  
*Secretary of Elementary Education*

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## Upcoming Events

- May 4 - Phila South & Delaware District Mtgs.
- May 5 - Phila North & Montgomery District Mtgs.
- May 6 - Bucks & Chester District Mtgs.
- May 6 - SEL workshops - Group IV
- May 9 - Mother's Day
- May 11 - Early Childhood District Mtg.
- May 12 - Keystone Stars Information Session
- May 13 - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord  
Holy Day of Obligation
- May 13 - SEL workshops - Group IV
- May 20 - SEL workshops - Group V
- May 23 - Pentecost
- May 27 - SEL workshops - Group V
- May 31 - Memorial Day



The following workshop is open to all teachers. It is an Act 48 credited three hour after-school workshop broken into two sessions with 1½ working hours per session. The sessions are scheduled from 3:30 to 5:15 on May 20 and 27. The first 30 to register will be accepted. The cost of the workshop has been covered.

To register go to

<https://www.solutionwhere.com/WW/aop/Default.aspx>. Click on "Events" in the menu bar and look for:

**Social and Emotional Learning in the Elementary Classroom (SEL - Group V)**

*Registration will close once the quota has been reached.*

For any questions, please contact: [Sister Edward Quinn](#)



MAY

## Ways for Students to Honor Mary

"Love our Lady.

And she will obtain abundant grace  
to help you conquer in your daily struggle."

~ St. Josemaria Escriva

[Five Ways to Honor Mary This May](#)

[Catholic Inspired Crafts, Activities & Ideas \(Mary\)](#)

[Mary Crafts and Activities for Catholic Kids](#)

[Hail Mary Activities](#)

[Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue - Tons of Ideas for Celebrating Mary in May](#)

[Prayer Videos](#)



## Begin to Set Summer Learning Goals

Talk with your students about how summer is the perfect time to set a learning goal for themselves, and have them pick out a skill or subject that interest them and that they might want to explore on their own. Maybe they want to learn more about volcanoes, maybe they want to learn all their multiplication tables, or maybe they want to read four chapter books before school starts again. Whatever that goal may be, help your students figure out a set of actionable steps to achieve it.

Just because the school year is ending doesn't mean that the hard work you've put into teaching all year long has to stop.

Check out <https://info.edmentum.com/Worksheet-BundlesDownload.html> for FREE downloadable worksheet bundles to send home with your students for extra practice! These grade-specific bundles include math, language arts, science, reading and literacy activities.

The **Summer Reading List** for all grades has been posted on the website: <https://aopelementary.org>

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