



Monthly Messenger - January 2022

Monthly Newsletter from the Secretary of Elementary Education



Message from Dr. Andrew McLaughlin

Dear Catholic School Educators,

As we continue our mission in a new year, I would like to share with you some thoughts from a prayer we recently used at one of our staff meetings:

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. ... that You would whisper in our ear when we need to run and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

This prayer calls us to re-focus our thoughts on what is the reason we exist and our call to patience and perseverance during times of trial. Let's face it—none of us has asked for the current challenges, but what makes us stand out is how we have accepted and dealt with the daily trials we face. As difficult as it may be, we are called to accept the bad with the good and to realize how important it is to trust in the providence and presence of God in our lives. Also difficult, but just as important, is the important role we play in bringing our students to this realization.

The month of January brings with it a variety of things (besides COVID and the winter weather) to ponder and reflect on, especially in the light of our Catholic Identity. The month begins with the feasts of Mary, Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of Jesus. It continues with the feasts Sts. John Neumann and Elizabeth Seton who were pioneers in American Catholic education. As we celebrate Martin Luther King Day and the week of Church Unity Octave, it is appropriate to reflect on the principles of Catholic Social Justice. The month ends with the anticipation of Catholic Schools Week. As reflected on in the prayer above, may we spend this January strengthening the virtues of patience and perseverance and asking God for the wisdom and courage to live each day of this new year bringing the light of Christ to all.

May God bless you, your families and your school communities.

Dr. Andrew McLaughlin
Secretary of Elementary Education

Please Help Us To Make Sure Every Teacher Is Receiving The Monthly Messenger. Share This Copy With A Colleague Who May Not Have Received It And Ask Them To Send Their Email Address To Catherine Jennings (cjennings@archphila.org) So They Can Be Added To The Mailing List.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 3 - 8th Grade Placement Forms Due to HS by Month End
- Jan 11 - Phila South District Mtg.
- Jan 12 - Phila North Countie District Mtg.
- Jan 13 - Bucks District Mtg.
- Jan 17 - MLK Holiday - No School
- Jan 18 - Early Childhood District Mtg.
- Jan 25 - Delaware County District Mtg.
- Jan 26 - Montgomery County District Mtg.
- Jan 27 - Chester County District Mtg.
- Jan 30-Feb 5 - Catholic Schools Week

SAVE THE DATES

- Feb 18 - Early Childhood Workshop
- Feb 26 - Early Childhood Workshop
- Mar 26 - Catechetical Convocation @ Archbishop Wood
- Apr 26-28 - STREAM Expo
- May - AOP Reading Olympics



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Calling to Family Community and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

"The family is thus an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, namely solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, the protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social

*structures, beginning in the territory in which the family lives, through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy." (Pope Francis, *On Love in the Family [Amoris Laetitia]*, no. 290, quoting the Final Report of the Synod of Bishops, 10/24/15)*

Here you will find [Additional Resources](#).



EXTENDED: Secretary Grant Registration Open Until January 31

WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR APPLICATION PERIOD TO JANUARY 31

The Office of Catholic Elementary (OCE) is proud to provide the Secretary Grant as a resource to support our elementary school teachers who have children that attend an Archdiocesan elementary school. Please note the list below for guidelines and qualifications:

- One parent/guardian must be employed full-time as an Archdiocesan elementary and/or early childhood school teacher ***at the time of submission of the application*** and continue to be employed in the 2022-2023 school year.
- The child/children must attend an Archdiocesan elementary (not early childhood) school in the 2022-2023 school year.
- The teacher must have been employed at an Archdiocesan school in the 2021-2022 school year.
- The grant is applied toward elementary school tuition.
- The grant is based on the number of applicants and the calculated need of each applicant, so award amounts may vary.
- The application process is a two-part process, as follows:
 1. Completion of the [Secretary Grant Application](#). (*This will determine the eligibility of the applicant.*)

2. Completion of the [FACTS application](#) | [1-866-444-4637](tel:1-866-444-4637). (This will determine the amount of the scholarship.)

Please retain a copy of your confirmation for each application filed.

- The deadline for submitting the application **January 31, 2021**. No applications will be accepted after this point. OCE is working to streamline the Secretary Grant process, as we understand that it has been confusing in the past. As we move forward, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us: cjennings@archphila.org.



**Catholic Schools
Week 2022**
January 30–February 5

www.AOPCatholicSchools.org
#CSW22

Catholic Schools Week 2022 is upon us and we have created an OCE web page where you can find lots of information, ideas and marketing materials to help you make the week as eventful, fun and fabulous as can be.

A couple of messages have already been posted, with more to come:

- [Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022](#)
- January 20 - [Celebrate your Parish](#)

In addition to our ever expanding list of offerings, here some additional resources to celebrate your week:

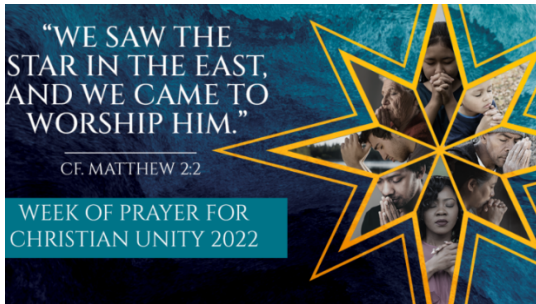
What better way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week than to bring our Backpack Blessing ceremony to your school and classroom. Teachers and administrators, who are interested in having a visit from St. Catherine Labouré, and distribution of Miraculous Medals, a prayer card, and an investiture in the Miraculous Medal family during Catholic Schools Week, should fill out the [Contact Form](#). A member of the Beyond Sunday team will schedule a time for this spiritually engaging, live event.

The Miraculous Medal Shrine is also offering to come and bless classrooms and students during Catholic Schools Week right on site (or via Zoom if you prefer). Faculty, administrators, and ministers only need to reach out via our website—or just email [Gina](#) directly to schedule a time to participate in this free event.

INCLUSION SHARED DRIVE

Important to Social Teaching; Important to Catholic Schools

A shared drive has been established so that teachers can share lesson plans and activities that can be used for teaching students with special needs. If you would like to contribute to this effort or benefit from shared ideas, please send your email address to sr.equinn@archphila.org so you can be invited to the shared drive.



Religion Corner

Christian Unity in 2022

The theme for the Week of Prayer for [Christian Unity](#) in 2022, which comes from the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel, is the Epiphany.

It was selected by the Middle East Council of Churches and originates from the churches in Lebanon. Present times in Lebanon are extremely difficult and economically disastrous. All this combined with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the situation quite stressful for the people there. The power of prayer in solidarity with those who suffer is a demonstration of Christian unity and a sign of communion.

TEACHER INDUCTION

We are in the process of planning the second professional development for new teachers as part of the induction process required by the state. The first session was held in August. Since some teachers missed last year's second session, and to assist us in the planning for this year's session, we are asking all first- and second-year teachers to complete this [survey](#).

When we have this information, we will be able to notify teachers directly of the date, location and time of this session. We are planning to have an afternoon event with dinner provided.



Marian Jeopardy

From the Shrine of the Immaculate Medal.

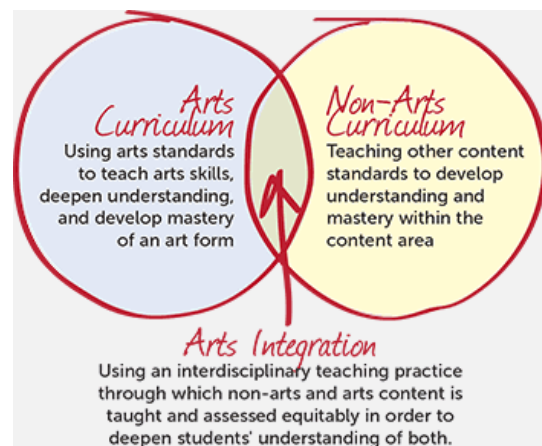
In honor of the Solemnity of Mary, everyone can have fun testing the 8th - 12th Graders on their knowledge of Mary. Note: A faculty edition of Marian Jeopardy can be had by request.

- [Marian Jeopardy Activity](#)
- [Miraculous Metal Shrine Video Archive](#)
- [Miraculous Metal Shrine Facebook Video Archive](#)

Fine Arts

Creativity Consultant Project (CCP)

The [Creativity Consultant Project \(CCP\)](#) is a comprehensive model that provides professional learning opportunities to teaching artists, arts specialists, classroom teachers and school administrators.



The model is centered around the teaching artist as co-teacher, coach, and mentor alongside classroom teachers and art specialists. Over the course of the school year, CCP engages participants in a series of arts-based professional learning opportunities including:

- the Creative Curriculum Institute,
- planning meetings,
- classroom workshops and residencies, and
- Young Audience assemblies

These cases are perfectly simple and easy to distinguish. In a free hour, when our power of choice is untrammelled and when nothing prevents our being able to do what we like best - every pleasure.

Registration Deadline: January 18

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

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Philadelphia, PA 19103

Subscribers are automatically added upon your employment hire at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia or Archdiocese school.

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