



Newsletter from the Secretary of Elementary Education

Monthly Messenger – January 2023



Dear Catholic School Educators,

Ordinary Times

As the calendar turned to January, the Christmas Season concluded with the Epiphany taking us into week one of ordinary time. The shepherds returned to the fields, the kings to their country, and Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt. We do not hear again what happened to the shepherds or kings and we do not hear much of what happened to Jesus other than the Presentation in the Temple and that Jesus was lost in the temple. *Ordinary time* spans most of Jesus life and *ordinary times* spans most of our life too.

In our classrooms, *ordinary time* provides the best teaching time with the lack of interruptions and a steady routine that greatly aids learning. Math facts, formulas and equations become etched in our students minds along with grammar, writing skills, social studies, and science facts. Guard this *ordinary time* with your best teaching. Hopefully more than any of that, our students and we grow closer to the Lord each day and we journey toward him in this *ordinary time*.

If you stop and reflect on *ordinary time*, we will come to see that it is actually very *extraordinary* if used well.

Submitted by: Sr. Margaret Rose Adams

Upcoming Events

- Jan 3 - 8th Grade Placement Forms Due by Month-End to High Schools
- Jan 13 - New Principal PLC
- Jan 16 - Martin Luther King Day - No School
- Jan 18 - Early Childhood District Mtg.
- Jan 24 - Phila South & Delaware Counties District Mtg.
- Jan 25 - Phila North & Montgomery Counties District Mtg.
- Jan 26 - Bucks & Chester Counties District Mtg.
- Jan 29-Feb 4 - Catholic School Week
- Feb 6 - Universal Principal Mtg.
- Feb 7-10 - Progress Reports Distributed
- Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday
- Feb 25 - Early Childhood Workshop



SAVE THE DATE

Reading Olympics Challenge

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is holding its first **Reading Olympics Challenge** on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

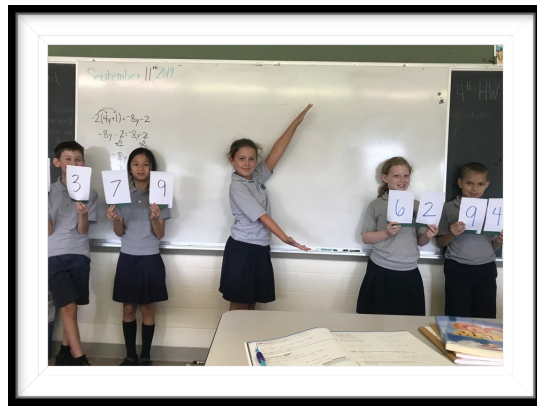
The event is a celebration of learning where teams of up to 12 students in two age groups compete to answer questions about 25 books on the designated Book Lists. Students compete in three rounds and earn points by answering questions correctly. At the end of the event, points are totaled and teams are awarded ribbons based on their score. Parents and family members are welcome to attend as spectators.

There will be one event in each county. Registration information will be coming soon. Information, locations, book lists and other details are being sent out in the Principals' Weekly Update. Volunteers willing to assist at the county events will be welcome.

HONORS MATH

Renaissance Testing Program for Honors Algebra Classes

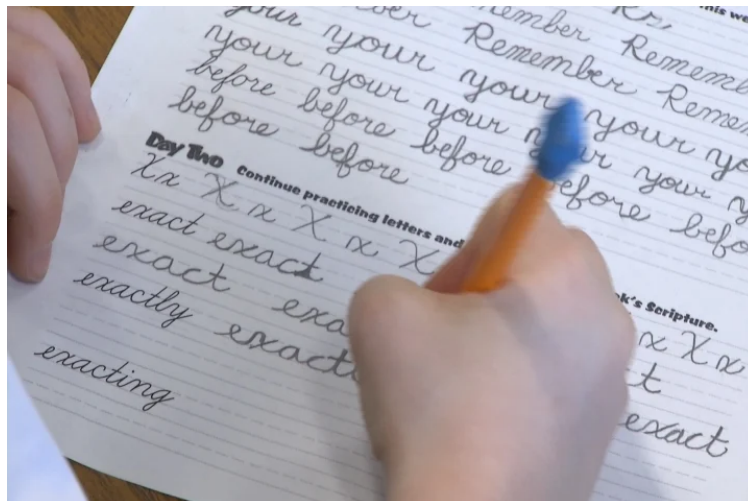
Renaissance Program set-up has begun for those who have submitted their Honors Math data and who have correctly completed the registration process for their algebra classes.



This is the same program being used by the freshman algebra classes which is replacing the Scantron Program and will be the assessment used to admit Honors Math students to an advanced level at the secondary level and will validate the awarding of credit completion of a secondary math course at the elementary level. Registrations for this program closed in December as we needed to provide an accurate number of participating students at the time of set-up. Reminders have been sent out since June. Information concerning the program set-up has been sent directly to the Honors Math teachers to the email address provided at the time of registration. As such, we cannot admit additional students once set-up is completed.

CREDIT: Sr. Edward Quinn, IHM

STREAM EXPO



It is time to begin planning for your school's entry into this year's STREAM EXPO. How does your school provide interdisciplinary learning for your students? Even at the very youngest levels students can be engaged in STREAM activities. Free examples can be found on the web site [Little Bins for Little Hands](#).

Registration for the Expo will be sent out later this month. All schools — Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary are asked to prepare at least one exhibit. More details will be sent with the Registration application.

For elementary and middle grades, download the [FREE planner template](#).

This free spreadsheet provides:

1: K-12 Organization

The spreadsheet contains tabs for each grade level. So everyone can see what's happening for vertical alignment.

2: Big Ideas & Standards

There's a place to plug in big ideas and standards addressed in each quarter. This makes it easy to collaborate and connect across content areas.

3: Content & Arts Alignments

Each teacher can enter what's happening in their content or arts area. So you can come to collaborative planning with hours of work done in advance.

General Snowflake Theme Ideas to STEAM Up Your Classroom:

- **Photography:** Snowflake photography is absolutely breathtaking! Check some out [HERE](#).
- **Math:** Not only do snowflakes offer a basic lesson in symmetry, but there are also more in-depth topics such as the Koch Snowflake and Fractals with infinite perimeters but finite areas.
- **Science:** Snowflakes can be a visual/physical representation of molecular structures and density. Also, check out STEAMing through the Water Cycle [HERE](#).
- **Psychology:** No two snowflakes are the same. Just like us and our fingerprints, they are unique. Combine the two by creating paper snowflakes and decorating them with inked fingerprints.

This is a compilation of a Snowflake Round-up of Helpful Links to STEAM up your classroom this winter. These projects can be combined for extra winter fun!



[FREE Winter STEM Challenge Cards](#)



Snowflake Project Round Up

Drawing/Paper Arts:

- Name [Snowflakes](#)
- Pop Up [Snowflake](#)
- Roll A [Snowflake](#)

Painting:

- Glue Resist [Watercolor Snowflakes](#)
- Check out my [Liquid Watercolor](#) Review

Technology:

- [Make-A-Flake](#) Online
- [Virtual Snowflake Cutting](#)
- Create a [Snowflake Symphony](#).

Printmaking:

- Found [Object Snowflake Prints](#)
- [Scratch Foam](#) Prints

Mixed Media/Sculpture:

- Glue Snowflake [Window Clings](#)
- [Geoboard](#) Snowflakes
- [Borax Crystal](#) Snowflake
- Snowy [Crystal Trees](#)
- [Snow Clay](#)
- [Craft Stick Snowflakes](#)

Collaborative Projects:

- Snowflake [Quilts](#)
- Snowflake [Mobiles](#)
- [Paper Roll](#) Snowflakes

TESTING TRAINING TUESDAYS

Testing Training Tuesdays on Zoom will resume this trimester. Topics will include:

- Setting up DRC Insight for those doing online testing.
- Preparing students for standardized testing.
- Accessing data on the DRC Insight platform.
- Looking at available reports and which reports to use for specific purposes.
- Making use of the test data to establish class and school goals.
- Making use of the Beacon Benchmark Assessments.

A YouTube website has been set up for recorded sessions at <https://www.youtube.com/@AoPTech>. The schedule and Zoom link for new sessions will be sent out on the OCE Update. If there is any topics you do not see listed above that you would like to have covered, please let [Sister Edward](#) know.

Catholic Schools Week



From January 29 to February 4, 2023, we will Celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Schools typically observe the week with Masses, assemblies and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to celebrate. As you prepare for your local celebrations, consider the following areas to highlight:

C	<u>C</u>hrist-Centered Atmosphere
A	<u>A</u>cademically-Sound Instruction
T	<u>T</u>echnologically Savvy
H	<u>H</u>appy students and faculty
O	<u>O</u>utreach-to-others <u>O</u>pportunities
L	<u>L</u>eadership Preparation
I	Inclusive Instruction—meeting the need of all students
C	Community focused

Is your school “**CATHOLIC**”?

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office of Catholic Elementary Education
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

cjennings@archphila.org

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

[Unsubscribe](#)