



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Diocese of Columbus January 31-February 6, 2021



Quintell Quinn (left photo), a senior at St. Francis DeSales High School, describes the relationship between students and teachers as a “feeling of togetherness” built on respect, and one that he will carry with him even after he graduates. The Galuzny family (center) shows that faith begins and ends at home, but that their love of music spurs their faith and their relationships with their parish and their daughters’ school communities. Students in grades 6-8 (right) at Columbus St. Mary are the first to occupy the new middle school building in German Village, one of several exciting school expansions throughout the Diocese made possible by partnerships with benefactors and the communities the schools serve.

Bishop Robert J. Brennan

Celebrate our teaching mission today and every day

A couple of weeks ago, I visited Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with the Kindergarten students. I had been asked to read a version of the story of the visit of the Magi, but in reality the students told the story to me as only enthusiastic and faith-filled 6-year olds can. Their love of the newborn baby Jesus and their excitement in giving Him gifts was a beautiful sign of the value of Catholic education.

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Our Lord instructed His disciples to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the

Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matt 28:19-20). This Great Commissioning, as it is called, initiated the teaching mission of our Church that continues to this day in the 53 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Columbus. Over 16,400 children come to our schools daily to know, love, and serve God. They are led by over 1,400 men and women who have dedicated their lives to sharing the Gospel with the future leaders of our Church.

I could not be more proud of our Catholic school principals, teachers, staff members, pastors, and school families than I am this year. We have

worked through tremendous challenges to continue to provide education in a way that is as close to normal and as safe as possible in addition to continuing all of the services that our families have come to rely on at our schools. This has been no small task. It is the love of Our Lord and His Church that has kept us all resilient in these tough times. Catholic education will emerge from this pandemic year stronger and more committed to our essential purpose – forming missionary disciples for our world that so dearly needs them.

Please join me in celebrating all those who make outstanding Catholic education possible in our Diocese during this Catholic Schools Week.



Schools operate humbly at bold pace

Beginning on Sunday, January 31, Catholic schools across the country will begin the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Each day of this week is typically used to recognize and honor the people who make Catholic education possible: parents, students, principals, teachers and staff, pastors, and parish communities.

This year, Catholic Schools Week has an additional significance, as those same groups of people will mark 11 months of a sustained commitment to keeping our students in school and learning through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We all must sincerely recognize and thank our Catholic school communities for their heroic dedication and courage in finding innovative ways to keep the school experience as close to normal as safely permitted by health guidelines for the more than 16,400 children in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Columbus.

Despite the challenges of Covid, Catholic Schools Week gives us all the chance to realize that the 2020-21 school year has been so much more than opening buildings. *Our Catholic Schools* have thrived this year in so many ways, and this special section of *The Catholic Times* will tell some of these stories.

We have had tremendous success in the class-

HAVE FAITH IN EDUCATION

Adam Dufault

Adam J. Dufault is the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.



room. We have opened and safely operated athletic programs at both the high school and elementary school levels, with a state championship in field hockey and a volleyball final four appearance for Bishop Watterson and a championship title game in football for St. Francis DeSales. We have seen great service to our communities being done, such as the gratitude shown to first responders by students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and a partnership between Our Lady of Peace School and the Dominican Sisters of Peace. We have seen physical growth, as new educational facilities opened their doors at St. Mary in German Village, St. Brendan in Hilliard and St. Francis de Sales in Newark, with another project underway at Newark Catholic and building plans moving forward at St. Charles. Blessed Sacrament in Newark has opened a brand new preschool program. We have seen tremendous examples of students and families living out their faith, such as the Galuzny family at St. Mary in Delaware and

Bishop Watterson High School and Quintell Quinn, a student at St. Francis DeSales High School.

Additionally, the Office of Catholic Schools has led a strategic planning process for schools as part of the Bishop's initiative to envision the future of our Diocese. This planning process, led by the Catholic Schools Management planning firm, is nearing its completion. Dozens of interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders have been conducted, as well as several surveys, analyses of school data, demographic forecasts, and hours of deliberation. The final plan will be ready at the beginning of summer. The goal of this project is to establish a comprehensive plan for the schools of the Diocese and the Office of Catholic Schools over the next three to five years that will ensure that the schools are unapologetically Catholic, academically excellent and financially viable into the future.

As *Our Catholic Schools* continue moving forward in a year that is so unlike any other, I would like to ask that you keep our schools, our administrators and teachers, and our students in your prayers. And, of course, please encourage anyone with an interest in learning more about our schools for their children to contact their local Catholic school or visit education.columbuscatholic.org.

Students continue to impact communities during pandemic

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

The coronavirus pandemic has affected different groups of people in myriad ways during the past 10 months. Perhaps the most drastic impact has been felt by those caring for the sick on the front lines and those who have been forced to stay separate and isolated from others.

For religious sisters, the pandemic has kept them from much of their in-person ministry because of safe-distance requirements. Because many sisters are in the age group most susceptible to the virus, a number of sisters have stayed in their convents since mid-March.

For health care workers, the 10-month period has been a time of unprecedented stress as hospitals have been stretched to their limits to handle the increase in admissions resulting from the pandemic.

Students in two diocesan schools have recognized the needs of these groups and have been reaching out to let them know they are appreciated and to give them encouragement as they continue to deal with the effects

of the disease.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace School is taking part in an "adopt-a-sister" program for members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, whose motherhouse is in Columbus and is home to 76 sisters.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School has developed "Operation Gratitude," a program recognizing people who are working on the front lines of health care at Mount Carmel Grove City Hospital.

Laura Baird, the parent of an Our Lady of Peace student, and Gaye Reissland, a member of Our Lady of Peace Church, began the initiative to help the sisters.

"Gaye was helping the sisters decorate for Christmas and doing other projects at the motherhouse," Baird said. "She told the school's Home and School Association (HSA) that some sisters had not been out of the building since March and could use something for Christmas to brighten their spirits.

"I got in touch with the sisters at the motherhouse and learned what they would like. The HSA then put together



Students from Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School pack bags of snacks and drinks for health care workers at Mount Carmel Grove City Hospital.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

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Faith at 'core' of musical family

The following story is the second in a series on missionary discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus. Video interviews related to this story will be made available on the Diocese of Columbus social media platforms.

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Music brought Doug and Bibianne Galuzny together and continues to play a significant role in the lives of the couple and their daughters, Clare, Ana and Angelina.

“Some people call us the von Trapps of (Delaware) St. Mary’s (Church),” Bibianne said, referring to the singing Austrian family whose story forms the basis of the play and film *The Sound of Music*.

The couple met in 1988 when both were part of a folk music group at Mansfield St. Peter Church.

“I played the trumpet, and Bibianne was a guitarist,” Doug said. “My parents got together in much the same way as Bibianne and I. Both of them were musicians, and they met while playing in high school and later together in a group in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They passed their talent along to my brother and me. After Bibianne and I had children, it seemed as though they moved from the cradle to the choir loft. They’ve always been comfortable sharing and leading the church community in song.”

“Music is Doug’s first love,” Bibianne said. “It’s in his soul. From an early age, he exposed our daughters to real music, the kind that’s endured through time – jazz, the classics, Italian and Polish ethnic music. Now we listen mostly to Christian praise and worship music at home but still a variety of styles.”

“Doug has a band known as Project 75 that sometimes plays at weddings and other types of celebrations and is part of a brass quintet that has played for Easter and Christmas at St. Mary’s and Easter at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. Music definitely puts all of us in a happy place.”

“Being involved in a musical family kept me close to Jesus through high school,” Doug said. “Most of my friends while I was growing up weren’t brought up in a church, and many of those who did attend church fell away once they got out of high school.

“Music kept me grounded and ac-



The Galuzny family chats during an interview session at Delaware St. Mary Church.

Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

tive in my faith after leaving home. I’m grateful to my parents for their involvement in church and music activities and wish more parents would do the same.”

Doug, 47, an information technology cloud architect for Nationwide Insurance, and Bibianne, 51, a nursing educator and home health-care provider, have been married for 21 years.

Doug; his brother, Brian; and their parents, Ray and Mary, played trumpet together for the Easter Vigil and Christmas midnight Masses at churches in Toledo and later in Mansfield from the time he was 11 years old until he graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in music in 1997. Doug also plays the piano and electric bass and is a cantor. Bibianne plays the guitar, although she says she’s not as musically active as she used to be.

All three daughters are pianists. Clare, a senior at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, and Ana, a junior at Watterson, also play the guitar and are members of the school’s worship band. In addition, Clare plays the ukulele and the electric bass, is learning the clarinet and is in Watterson’s handbell choir and jazz band. Ana loves to sing. Angelina, a sixth-grader at St. Mary School, plays the ukulele and has taken vocal lessons.

Doug made a musical arrangement of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Magnificat, the Virgin Mary’s hymn of praise to God, and he and the family put together a recording of the arrangement for this past year’s Divine Mercy Sunday, April

19, which was livestreamed on the parish’s YouTube and Facebook accounts. All Catholic churches in Ohio were closed at the time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The family also is part of the Delaware parish’s Cenacle prayer group Masses on the first Saturday of each month and of its Masses for Marian feasts.

The Cenacle is another name for the Upper Room – the site where the Apostles gathered for the Last Supper, where Jesus appeared to them several times after his resurrection and where the Holy Spirit descended on them at Pentecost. Cenacle prayer groups throughout the nation and the world meet regularly to pray the rosary and other Marian prayers for priests and for the Church in general.

“Pope Francis (in his 2013 apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*) says all Christians are missionary disciples. Mary was the first and highest missionary disciple, and the Cenacle has played a big role in bringing me closer to Christ and being willing to spread his word,” Bibianne said. “Praying the rosary brought me through a dark period in my adult life. Through the Cenacle, I made the personal connection with Jesus I was yearning for.”

A few years ago, as part of the process of becoming a Catholic and joining St. Mary Church, Andy Mackey was brought into the Cenacle by its founder within the parish, retired Deacon Felix Azzola. “Bibianne was the first person I was introduced to,” Mackey said. “She gave me her rosary and was so welcoming, along with

others in the group. No question I had about the faith was stupid.

“I could tell the Galuznys lived the faith. They radiated it and made me feel a part of their family,” said Mackey, who after his baptism was hired by the parish as its engagement specialist, linking the parish with the community and assisting with the youth ministry and Parish School of Religion programs. Since September, Mackey has been the web designer for the communications office of the Diocese of Columbus.

As part of their parish’s youth activities, the Galuznys’ two older daughters are active in a student group that met every Tuesday prior to the pandemic and then continued with Zoom meetings. Mackey is the adult leader of the group, which focuses on the life of a different saint each week.

Clare and Ana said they also have found ample opportunities to practice missionary discipleship through Watterson’s Prayer Club, which meets every day before school, and through everyday conversations with other students.

They also are members of the school’s swimming team. “One opportunity to pray with someone that I especially remember came last year, two weeks before the state championship swimming meet,” Clare said. “One of my teammates had knee issues and came to me at lunch one day to ask if I could pray with her about her injury. It made me very happy that she was open to the possibility of prayer, so we went to the school chapel, and I prayed over her.

“The pain started disappearing and was pretty much gone by the time of the meet. She did well and told me afterward how grateful she felt toward me. I told her I was very grateful she asked me,” Clare said.

During the 2½ months when schools were closed at the end of the 2019-20 academic year, Clare and Ana helped organize the Quaranteens, a group of young people who met each weekday for prayer via Zoom because they were unable to do so through Prayer Club activities. Clare said about 70 or 80 young people were regular participants in Quaranteens programs.

“I really love coming in at 7:20 in the morning, before school starts, for a few moments of prayer time,” Clare said. “It’s a great way to start the day and get closer to Jesus.”



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Diocesan schools uphold mission in midst of pandemic

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the 36 preschools, 42 elementary, and 11 secondary schools in the Diocese of Columbus are thriving as they fulfill their mission of serving the Catholic community by forming disciples who live the message of Jesus Christ.

All schools are open every day for in-person instruction or a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning. Despite the operational challenges this year, many schools of the Diocese of Columbus have made programmatic advancements and building additions to benefit students from preschool through high school.

St. Mary School in Columbus has returned a former public school building in the historic German Village neighborhood to its original purpose. It now serves as a new middle school building. All three Catholic schools in Newark have experienced changes. Newark Catholic High School is building a new performing arts center, Blessed Sacrament School has added a new preschool program, and St. Francis de Sales School has undergone substantial renovation. Meanwhile, Hilliard St. Brendan School has completed an expansion project to add new classrooms, offices, and library space.

Columbus St. Mary

When school resumed after the Christmas break on Monday, January 4, sixth- to eighth – grade students at Columbus St. Mary School returned to classes in a new building. The former Third Street School building, built in 1864, was acquired by the school last summer and renovated throughout the fall. The 9,500 square foot, two-story building at 630 S. 3rd St. is just north of St. Mary Church and the main building of the school.

“We wanted to make sure that the building remained a schoolhouse, so we agreed to a deed restriction that it always would be a school,” said Recreation and Parks spokeswoman Sophia Fifner. “The school worked with the German Village Society and with other neighborhood groups to get their input and they were very supportive of the plan.”

School principal Kayla Elrich said about 115 students are attended classes in the building. “It took all of Christmas vacation to move materials into the building, but we were ready to go on Jan. 4,” she said. “The building’s main features are intended to help the students with academic achievement.



Newark Catholic High School is building a new arts center scheduled to be completed in May that will accommodate school Masses and events. Photo courtesy Newark Catholic



The former Third Street School building in German Village was acquired last summer by Columbus St. Mary School and was renovated before opening in January for students in grades six through eight. Photo courtesy St. Mary German Village School

These include state of the art technology, Smart boards in every room, a science lab space, a flexible learning center, and designated spaces for tutors and special education support staff.”

The first floor has 2 classroom connected by a retractable wall along with a science lab and office space. The

second floor has 4 large classroom spaces. A large locker area and lounge spaces occupy the basement. Outdoor classroom space will be coming in the near future.

“We are extremely grateful for the generosity of so many who made it possible to expand into this build-

ing,” said diocesan superintendent of schools Adam Dufault. “We’re very excited about the future of St. Mary’s. This expansion allows us to meet a growing demand for Catholic education in south Columbus.”

The school has seen enrollment grow to about 380 students from 35 different ZIP codes.

Catholic Schools of Newark

The addition of a performing arts center at Newark Catholic High School means that school Masses will no longer have to be in the school gymnasium and that performances will no longer have to be held at auditoriums in the city. Ground was broken for the 500-seat, 13,400 square foot addition in September and is expected to be completed by early May. Principal Beth Hill said that the first event to be held in the new space will be a dedication Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan. Luke Baus, a 1996 graduate of the school, was the architect for the project and said his industrial arts teacher, Tom Cash, inspired him to enter architecture.

“We’ve been talking about an arts center for the past five or six years,” Hill said. “The talk became serious three years ago when Steve and Salena Hitchens gave the school \$500,000 as seed money.” The remaining \$2.1 million needed for the center came through pledges. Hill anticipates that the cost will be paid in full in three years.

“It’s truly been an act of faith for people to step forward in the middle of a pandemic, when so much is unknown, and pledge to complete this center,” Hill said. “When the pandemic halted classes in March, people felt it was so important to have this building as something to promote the arts. It’s a testimony to their faith and to perseverance in difficult times. There’s no better place to celebrate God’s goodness and the gifts and talents he has given our students than in this center.”

The youngest learners in Newark now have a new option for early childhood education, as a new preschool program opened at Blessed Sacrament School in August. “We had to rearrange some things during the summer,” said principal Josh Caton. “We moved the kindergarten class upstairs and put the preschool in a double room.”

Caton was the father of a Blessed Sacrament student before he became principal and said parents had been talking about adding a preschool for



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Emmaus Talk lunches feed souls at Bishop Watterson

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and developed to encourage students to gather and build community in safe ways during the pandemic, “Emmaus Talk” lunches at Bishop Watterson High School were born.

“This ministry is modeled after Jesus’ walking with the disciples on the Road to Emmaus,” said Bishop Watterson Campus Minister Beth Simmonds. “It is a time to connect with others, share our journey and be invited to recognize that Jesus walks with us.”

During the fall, students were given an opportunity to eat their lunch outside, socially distanced, with a group of peers and a faculty or staff member who would help get conversation started. Students were given a topic such as, “think about a moment when you have seen God at work during the pandemic” and then the conversation flowed from that point.

Senior Tessa Whittaker helped plan and promote Emmaus Talk lunches as the school year began.

“The Emmaus Lunch helped me take a break from the hustle and bustle of school to spend some time in reflection with my classmates,” she said. “It is so easy to get caught up in the business of everyday life and for-



Socially-distanced Bishop Watterson students came together outside during the fall for Emmaus Talk lunches.
Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

get the gifts God puts in front of me every day.”

Like Whittaker, senior Tyler Young recognized the lunches as a chance to step away from the usual school day

“I personally enjoyed going to the Emmaus lunches because it was a relaxing time away from school where I got to spend time outside, and got to

know my classmates a little bit better.

Student Council vice president and senior Hope Uptegraph said the lunches were a helpful combination of meeting new people and growing in faith at the same time.

“Mrs. Simmonds made the experience delightful, encouraging students from multiple grades and vari-

ous backgrounds to step outside their comfort zone and sign up,” she said. “It’s crucial for students to stay socially active, in a safe way of course during these unprecedented times, and the Emmaus Talk lunches allowed students to do so.”

“I loved being able to eat lunch with people you normally don’t talk to or eat with on a normal day,” said senior Jacob Maziarz. “It was also really nice to sit outside and just enjoy the company of others.”

“The thing I enjoy most is the open and friendly environment with wonderful people,” said sophomore Jack Summanen. “Everyone is always very friendly.”

Although they are on a hiatus due to the winter weather, Emmaus Talk lunches will begin again in the spring.

“I met quite a few new people through the Emmaus lunch, and we never would have spoken or even crossed paths had we not participated,” said senior Emily Kovalchin. “It made my day to go sit in the sunshine and just have a good time. I highly recommend the Emmaus lunch to anyone who is considering going in the spring, because it’s an awesome place to make great friends and great memories!”

Watterson students use gifts and talents to create, contribute

Pope Francis once tweeted, “Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”

Several Bishop Watterson students have been applying Pope Francis’ advice during the pandemic, discovering positive ways to deal with boredom and a change of routine, by exploring artistic talents, finding ways to serve others, creating a business or a combination of the three.

Senior Maddie Phillips began making earrings during the stay-at-home order last spring which are sold through her mother’s Etsy store. With 75% of the proceeds donated to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, she has managed to combine art, service and business interests into one endeavor.

“I’m creative and would always make bracelets and necklaces,” said Phillips. “I also had an idea to sell something and when I couldn’t volunteer at Mid-Ohio or with Special Olympics, I decided to help by making jewelry.”

Dominic Contini, also a senior, had begun to take photos for 270 Hoops. During the 2019-20 season, prior to the arrival of COVID-19, Dominic could



Junior Amelia Pepe learned to bake during the quarantine last spring and now donates her creations to family, friends and essential hospital workers.

be found on the baseline of high school basketball courts all over Columbus, snapping pics and tweeting updates.

“When the pandemic hit, it took away many opportunities for me to take pictures at the high school state championships for winter sports,” he said. “I was lost without being able to watch sports.”

So he decided to start his own photography business, Contini Flicks. He had the good fortune of being hired by Pure Sweat basketball trainer Drew



Senior Adam Pavliga displays some of his artwork.

Photos courtesy Bishop Watterson

Slope who works with such athletes as Ohio State legends Jared Sullinger, Evan Turner, Deshaun Thomas, and Jon Diebler.

“The saying I realized was true during the pandemic was, ‘When life gives you lemons, make lemonade,’” Contini said. “Life gave us this awful pandemic and yes, it can be very negative, but it just depends on your mindset and what you do with what God has put in front of you.”

While Contini has been expanding



Senior Maddie Phillips sells earrings she makes and donates most of the money to Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

his artistic interests behind the camera lens, senior Adam Pavliga spent more time on a hobby he picked up as junior year kicked off: painting.

“Over the quarantine I had more time to work on it and practice and try new things,” he said. “I had started by watching Bob Ross videos and copying what he was doing and then I started my own paintings. I love to

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Left side, front to back:
Freshman Liam Armstrong, seniors Liz Cruz, Cielo Strickland, Elias Wahl, and Garrison Budd, and sophomore Brayden Roof



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Right side, front to back:
Senior Kyle Gramlich, sophomore Deshay Mills, freshman Mia Savage, sophomore Ely Hejduk, and senior Jacob Roof

It's always Catholic Schools Week at Bishop Ready

The nation celebrates Catholic Schools Week at the end of January but it isn't just a week at Bishop Ready. Faith, excellence, and service permeate every day at the school.

When the coronavirus surge began in March, educational formats were modified to ensure the safety of students and faculty members throughout the Catholic educational system. At Bishop Ready, this meant a virtual graduation and everyone getting comfortable with Zoom meetings and remote learning. When the current year began in August, Bishop Ready remained committed to providing the quality Catholic education it has always championed while continuing the commitment to keep our students and faculty safe.

Whatever the format, and Bishop Ready has successfully navigated a hybrid form to date, the administration and faculty insist on providing the same strong college prep courses, with the addition of a selection of courses designed to allow students to explore and prep for career areas in technology, cybersecurity, and the trades, all based on a firm basis found in our Catholic identity. Faith is a constant component of our daily life.

While Bishop Ready ensures that the classroom component of education does not suffer through these unusual circumstances, we also acknowledge the necessity for students to develop spiritually, socially, and emotionally. To these ends, we continue to provide opportunities for our students to experience the "normal" school activities.

Our sports teams continue to compete and excel, both on the team and individual level, with participants continuing to earn scholarships to continue on the collegiate level.

Our chaplain, Father Seth Keller, along with our Deacon, Joe Knapke, and our Campus Ministry Team provide a supportive Catholic environment that includes Mass in our St. Michael Chapel and streaming throughout our classrooms and available to students at home and the opportunity to practice Catholic social teaching through volunteer work, in a restricted format because of COVID protocols but including collecting goods for food pantries and diapers for the Bottoms Up Drive. The St. Vincent de Paul Society at Bishop Ready, as well as other clubs and organizations, spearheads these drives and continues to follow Pope Francis's dictate to care for those less fortunate. In addition, Father Keller has started a



Guest Speaker Laura Lewis addresses students on mental health issues.

prayer group for students who wish to gather in chapel for a short period of time for prayer and discussion during the lunch period. Father Keller sees this group as a leadership group for those students interested in serving the school community by using their gifts and talents to lead in keeping faith and church at the forefront of our communal life at Ready and beyond.

We provided a guest speaker who addressed our in-school and online students about the emotional, social, and psychological issues that we may all be experiencing with regard to the stresses and strains of the pandemic. It's important for students and adults alike to realize that these feelings are normal in "non-normal" times and that help is available and should be requested, if needed.

While traditions have been slightly altered to adjust to new health protocols, they continue to provide a needed feeling of normalcy during what is anything but a normal time. The annual Spirit Week became Spirit Weeks to accommodate the hybrid model, allowing all students to participate in the annual activities. The Halls were decorated, but with limited participation by Student Council. Homecoming Court was still chosen, but the photo was taken in two parts to accommodate for physical distancing. Even Santa visited to spread some cheer (as well as hot chocolate and cookies) to lend a festive air before Christmas break.

The students have adjusted extremely well to the hybrid situation and the restrictive protocols necessary to help contain the virus. They have



The Bishop Ready cafeteria has been repurposed during the coronavirus pandemic. Photos courtesy Bishop Ready High School



Father Seth Keller celebrates Mass in St. Michael Chapel.

shown admirable maturity in accepting changes that will help keep members of the Ready Family safe. Masks are mandatory and worn without complaint. Desks are stationed at the recommended distance apart, making for a smaller number of students in each classroom. Sanitizers are located throughout the school, including in each classroom, and stairwells are designated as up and down.

"A vibrant Catholic educational environment relies on a dedicated and caring faculty and staff; at Ready, we have adjusted to a system of teaching for both the in-class and remote students, depending on the day of the week," according to Principal Celene A. Seamen. "Faculty and staff continue to provide whatever help is needed



Members of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School's new Adeste Fidelis group meet in the school chapel. They are (visible from left): Anna Woods, campus minister Tera Chun, Cece Woods, Emma Simone and Dominic Ratliff.



Adviser Marcus Phelps (far left) meets with members of Columbus Bishop Hartley's My Brother's Keeper organization (from left): Daniel Dunor, Donovan Davis, Grady Hill and Xavier Martin-Fuller.
Photos courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

Bishop Hartley students form new groups

In the midst of hybrid learning, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students and extracurricular-activity moderators have adapted to allow continued activities and participation. In addition, two new groups have formed in response to student requests and identified needs.

Adeste Fidelis was founded by students under the direction of campus

minister Tera Chun. The group works to further the faith formation of the school's student body by building discipleship and a passion for the Catholic faith.

Members of the group meet every other week. The group chose its name, which is Latin for "come, faithful," because its members wanted to create a community for all students to join

and to bring about a spiritual revival at the school.

My Brother's Keeper is a program started by former president Barack Obama to help young men of color reach their full potential. Its goal is to mentor, support and guide young people so they will take important steps to obtain the skills they need to find a good job or go to college and work.

At Hartley, the group's primary focus is to help students stay on track and successfully develop the skills they need to enter the workforce or postsecondary education or training. The group also hosts open discussions about injustice and equality in and out of school. Health and physical education teacher Marcus Phelps is its adviser.

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Cristo Rey is building community

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Cristo Rey Columbus offers a rigorous college-prep curriculum, including Advanced Placement and honors courses. The majority of its graduates are the first generation in their families to attend college, changing the trajectory of both their own lives

and their families in terms of earning potential. Perhaps more importantly, Cristo Rey Columbus encourages students to open their minds both in high school and college, in service of becoming "men and women for others" and improving their communities.

Joe Patrick, President of Cristo Rey Columbus High School, said the combination of its work-study program, academic goals, and spiritual focus not only shapes young minds but also helps to build our Columbus community. "We are proud to join other community leaders in opening the door of access to all students to have the same opportunity to succeed in college, in career, and in life."

If you would like to join us and our business partners in building a stronger Columbus community through our Professional Work-Study Program, please contact Somers Martin, PWSP Sales Director, at smartin@crestoreycolumbus.org or (614) 223-9261 ext. 005.

If you are interested in making an investment in the success of our students, please contact Linda Silva, Director of Advancement, at lsilva@crestoreycolumbus.org or (614) 223-9261 ext. 010.




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-  100% of our seniors are accepted into at least one university or college.
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-  26 students were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) this past fall (Angel, pictured right). This is our sixth NHS class.
-  Cristo Rey Columbus families come from 43 different countries and 46% of students have at least one parent who was born in another country. 37% of students speak a language other than English at home.
-  No student is ever turned away because of an inability to pay.
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St. Charles innovates amid pandemic

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School has a campus with several buildings available for its students. This has allowed the school's administration to re-imagine many of these areas while creating new student learning spaces and following safety protocols established by the state and the diocese.

Many individual class Masses, prayer services and retreats take place in the school's Mother of Mercy Chapel. The school also uses the Robert C. Walter Student Commons for all-school gatherings, but only two classes can safely distance in the space to celebrate liturgies in person. Students in the two remaining classes watch a livestreamed feed from their learning spaces and classrooms.

St. Charles senior Daniel Dixon has taken on the responsibility of assisting the school's sacristan, Sister Margaret Hoffman, OSF, in handling the duties associated with preparing all of the school's on-campus liturgies.

"The lifeblood of St. Charles is rooted in our Catholic identity," he said. "The most important part of being Catholic is the ability to attend Holy Mass.

"My role is to ensure that our school

community has all we need for a proper celebration of the liturgy. This preparation is in some ways visible, such as how the sanctuary appears, but most of my contributions consist of smaller tasks. Jesus is present in the Mass; I felt called to serve Him through this vital ministry."

The school's drama department has continued to produce live theater during the pandemic. "We realized that our first priority was to ensure the safety of our student actors and audience members by carefully following state guidelines," said department director Doug Montgomery. "We are fortunate to have large spaces where we could rehearse and eventually perform. Our next challenge was finding scripts with no physical interaction among cast members."

The school's fall production, *The Spoon River Project*, consisted of a series of monologues in which former residents of the mythical community of Spoon River examined life and the longing for what might have been. All actors and audience members wore masks, and wireless microphones were used in the production at the Walter Commons.



The cast of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School's winter drama production, *Elephant's Graveyard*, practices in the campus theater. The play will be presented from Feb. 26 to 28 at the Valley Dale Ballroom in Columbus.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

For the winter production, Montgomery selected *Elephant's Graveyard*, which St. Charles originally premiered in central Ohio in 2012. It also uses a series of dramatic monologues to combine historical fact and legend. The story is the true tale of the tragic collision of a struggling circus and a tiny town

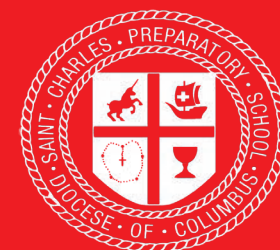
in Tennessee in 1916, which resulted in the only known lynching of an elephant.

Again, all the student actors will be socially distanced and the cast and the audience will be masked. The play will run from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 26 to 28 at the Valley Dale Ballroom, 1590 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

THANK YOU FROM ST. CHARLES

The St. Charles Preparatory School community thanks Bishop Robert Brennan and Superintendent Adam Dufault for helping navigate a successful new school year.

We also extend congratulations and best wishes to our fellow Catholic schools for their continued success in the 2020-2021 school year!



EXCEL WITH OTHERS

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ST. CHARLES EXPERIENCE, VISIT WWW.STCHARLESPREP.ORG

'Brother's Keeper' program continues virtually at St. Charles

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School's "My Brother's Keeper" program is continuing virtually since participants can't meet face to face.

The program features St. Charles students serving as mentors for grade-school students from Columbus Collegiate Academy by sharing food, playing games and teaching life lessons. The group's theme for this year has been "Resilience."

The organization's leader, St. Charles faculty member Mike Warner, said the group gathers via Zoom to discuss current events, watch a video or hear a guest speaker. Then

each mentorship pair goes to a virtual 'meeting room' where they continue the conversation.

"While things are nowhere near the same," Warner says, "St. Charles students are still exhibiting the same level of commitment to these relationships and creativity in engaging the younger students in ways that support their growth and development," Warner said. "In turn, the relationships and connections among the two groups grows. We persist in finding new ways to grow as our brother's keeper on campus and off."

READY, continued from Page 9



Bishop Ready Student Council members decorated the halls for Spirit Weeks.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

to our students to make sure that they not only master the educational material but that they also have the emotional and psychological support that may be needed." In addition, Plexiglass shields are in place in offices and Zoom meetings have been mastered. Our school nurse not only helps with the reporting to the state but also is a source of information for pandemic-related queries.

At Ready, the new normal continues to provide the same emphasis on faith, academics, and service as always. We are preparing for the new class of freshmen who will enter in the fall as we prepare for the graduation of our seniors and the advancement of our

underclassmen. Scholarships continue to be earned, career decisions continue to be made, and spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth continues apace. Whatever the future holds, whatever format a Ready education takes, our students and their families can be sure that we will continue to hold the same high standards that we always have. We will continue to support them, help them, encourage them, and pray for them. And we look forward to continuing to be proud of them, as they, with us, navigate these new challenges. Faith, excellence, and service, as articulated in Catholic Schools Week, are the touchstones of a Ready education.

IMPACT, continued from Page 2

er gift boxes with things like Christmas candy, hot chocolate and wine, along with notes telling the sisters we were thinking of them. More than 20 Our Lady of Peace families took part, along with two families from Columbus Holy Spirit School."

"Laura suggested that families adopt a sister for Christmas, and I thought my fourth-grade class could act as a family," said Our Lady of Peace teacher Sheri Magee. "We adopted Sister Anne Keenan, OP, and sent her a letter and some artwork. She sent a letter back and we responded by sending her a gift card, a blanket and some chocolate.

"We're creating some more art for her and the other sisters and planning some Zoom time so we can talk to each other. Now that sisters aren't as familiar a sight in schools as they once were, it's great to have students talk with them and see the important role the sisters and their vocation play in the life of the Church."

Recipients of the boxes included Sister Carol Ann May, OP, and Sister Shawn Fitzpatrick, OP. "I was not aware of what the 'adopt-a-sister' program would be when it began," Sister Carol Ann said. "I was so touched by the graciousness, the generosity and the kindness of the families that took part. Having these people praying for us and remembering us during this time of isolation was just what I needed during the Christmas season. It was just perfect."

"Much to my surprise, the person who adopted me was one of my former first grade students at Our Lady of Peace," Sister Shawn said. "It was so surprising and such a blessing to reconnect with this person that I remembered as a little child, now

grown up and still in the Church."

In Grove City, the staff and students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School have cultivated a relationship with the Mount Carmel Health organization that opened a medical center there in 2014. The relationship expanded when the city's first full-service hospital was opened by Mount Carmel in 2018.

As part of their Operation Gratitude initiative, "families at the school filled packages of snacks and drinks for caregivers at the hospital who often don't have time to enjoy a meal break," said Brad Allen, the school's enrollment coordinator.

Students made cards with special messages to be included with the packages, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioners have been sharing virtual messages of thanks and motivation to hospital workers.

Volunteers from the school and church have committed to standing outside the hospital to clap nurses, doctors, and staff in and out during four separate shift changes. Parishioners also have been encouraged to support Mount Carmel's street medicine program with monetary donations.

"With Operation Gratitude, Our Lady of Perpetual Help families have found a way to say 'thank you' and give back to those health care workers who have labored and sacrificed so much," Allen said.

Diocesan superintendent of schools Adam Dufault praised the two schools' service efforts, saying, "Service to others is a foundational part of our Catholic faith. The work being done at OLP and OLPH and so many other Catholic schools is putting our faith into action for the betterment of our community."



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*Photos were taken prior to the pandemic; events took place prior to the institution of Covid-19 protocols.

Quinn says he'll miss feeling of family at DeSales

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Quintell Quinn is well-known for his football accomplishments but says what he will remember most about his four years at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School is the feeling of togetherness among students and teachers.

Quinn said that if an eighth-grade student were to ask him about the benefits of being educated at DeSales, "I would talk about all the friends I've made and the feeling of family you get, especially with the teachers. You'll always remember the good times you had here at DeSales."

"What I like about all the experiences I've had here is all the activities we have. There's always something new going on throughout the year," he said. "School spirit days and pep rallies are the best. You can feel the love the students have for the school and the team – how everyone is behind us, rooting for us and wanting the best. It's a great motivator because you want to go out there and play your best for your friends and school and just have fun. It was tough this year because COVID made students spread out and made it kind of hard, but we found ways to cheer each other on and celebrate safely."

"Something else I really like is our World Cultures Week," he said. "We have students representing many countries and backgrounds, and it gives them a chance to show their talents and lets everyone learn about different food, music and dancing."

The school, which has 885 students this year, has an annual world cultures assembly to celebrate the diversity represented among the student body, which includes students of African-American, American Indian, Asian-Pacific Islander, Caucasian and Hispanic origin.

This event took place in 2020 on Jan. 31, a little more than a month before COVID closed all the state's schools for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. The assembly included an ethnic fashion show and performances of songs, poetry, Irish dancing, bagpipe music and traditional African dance. The theme for the school's world cultures week was "Christ as the Master Carpenter," celebrating the unique beauty each person offers to the world.

DeSales also is known throughout Ohio for its athletic program, with its teams winning 33 team and 79 individual state championships in the 59



Columbus St. Francis DeSales senior Quintell Quinn

Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

seasons since the Stallions fielded their first teams in 1962.

This year's football team was one of the school's best. It posted a 9-2 record, won its first Central Catholic League championship since 2016, and played in a state championship game for the ninth time, losing the Division III title contest 31-28 to Chardon in double overtime at Massillon. That was Quinn's best game of the year, gaining 216 yards in 28 carries and scoring three touchdowns. He gained 1,566 yards and scored 27 touchdowns in 2020 and finished his three-year DeSales career with a school record 3,363 yards, scoring 48 touchdowns. As a linebacker, he had 278 career tackles.

Following the season, the state prep sports writers' association chose him for its All-Ohio team for the second straight year – an accomplishment matched only by University of Cincinnati head football coach Luke Fickell and Grant Bowman, both of whom were at DeSales in the 1990s.

Quinn was recruited by several Mid-American Conference (MAC) schools and has signed to play for Ohio University (OU) in the fall as a linebacker. Because of the pandemic, he was unable to visit any schools before signing day. "OU is where I felt the most comfortable," he said. "The coaches there talked to me a lot and checked on me all the time. I felt they really wanted me to play there, and it's close to home."

He said he's undecided on a major,

but enjoys his science classes at DeSales the most, "even though they're pretty difficult." He's thinking of engineering or architecture as possible careers.

Quinn said he strives to have people think of him as "respectable and cool, and that's about it." Asked for his definition of respectability, Quinn said, "It's how I treat people, that I treat everyone the same."

He expanded on that topic later after talking about his football career. "To have respect means being OK with everyone, not being someone who dislikes people, but someone who cares about them," he said. "I'm quiet. If I don't know you, I won't bother you. I won't butt into conversations but will respect your opinion. That's all part of the family feeling here."

Quinn was also on the school's track team his sophomore year and was part of a state championship 4x100 relay team. "I have a drive for success with everything, but it's also important to help my teammates," he said. "Just staying together, knowing we can help each other is important. Whenever people ask me questions, I try to give them the best advice I can, but also tell them to look for help from others."

He was a football team captain in 2020 and said the main quality of a captain is "setting an example, not just speaking about it. It's important to talk about my own mistakes, to show how I've learned from them and cheer my teammates up."

"When I go to OU, one of the qualities I want to take with me is that I won't complain about things that have to be done and won't sell myself short. I don't want to be the lazy type of person who will complain all the time and just settle for less than he's capable of doing."

DeSales principal Dan Garrick, an educator for 30 years, said, "I can't think of a more deserving young man than Quintell in all my career, and I'm sure he will be a great success at OU. I was blessed to teach him in a U.S. History class. He has great attention to detail and didn't miss a single assignment all year."

"He has this great inner drive within him – a quality that places him, in that category, among the top 5 percent of students I've taught over the years. He has a true desire to be successful. He's always been selfless and will do anything for you, but goes about his business in a quiet, humble way. He's very grounded in his family and has a strong Christian faith."

Quinn attends The Vineyard Church of Columbus and is one of many DeSales students who are not Catholic but have been educated in Catholic elementary and secondary schools. He attended Columbus St. James the Less School before coming to DeSales and says he likes that there are similarities and differences between his worship at The Vineyard and participation in DeSales' faith experiences such as attending Mass.

"Like his teammates, Quintell has the good fortune of attending a faith-based institution," said Ryan Wiggins, the Stallions' head football coach. "At DeSales and other schools, you realize that faith is truly at the center of all you do. You don't just pay lip service to religion but realize its impact in every aspect of life. In football, it strengthens your bond with your teammates and the way you are there for one another, supporting and caring and looking out for each other. Quintell has been outstanding in this."

Quinn said that as he gets ready to go to college, he's grateful to the DeSales teachers and alumni who have given him advice over the years. "I've always been open to people that respected me," he said. "Once I build trust with people, I've been able to open up to them, and that's helped me grow. I'll never forget the opportunities people have given me. I'm looking forward to coming back to DeSales one day and being able to do the same thing."

WATTERSON, *continued from Page 7*

create things and all I had done up to that point was play sports.”

Pavliga is a three-sport athlete, playing golf in the fall, hockey in the winter and tennis in the spring. He is currently captain of the Eagle ice hockey team.

“Through painting I discovered that I could use my imagination and create my own world,” he said. “It made me feel good that it was my own creation and my family loved them. We even hung some behind my dad’s desk and they have been a topic of conversation on his Zoom calls for work.”

Over the summer, Sofia Roncone, a BWHS junior, began pondering ways to do service during a pandemic as many agencies were utilizing less

volunteers. The idea of a grocery delivery/errand running service for the elderly was a natural result of conversations with her parents who are both doctors.

“When you go volunteer at different places, you don’t think about all of the logistics and organizing that happens,” she said. “It made me think about all of the work that goes into charitable organizations and it made me grateful for the ones that already exist, all I have, and that I have the means to be able to start my own service.”

She has found some folks who do not have family near them and who are at particularly higher risk to the effects of COVID-19 and was just

getting her volunteer program started in January.

During quarantine Amelia Pepe got bored and taught herself to bake. She started with baking mixes from the grocery store and then began experimenting and looking for new recipes online. The result was cookies, cakes, cupcakes and muffins for family, friends and even essential hospital workers. She has occasionally taken orders for special events but does not charge.

“I view it as a hobby that produces delicious treats for those that deserve appreciation and gratitude!” Pepe said.

Another junior, Jake Bramlish, grew pumpkins at his family’s Ostrander home and taught himself how to play a ukulele.

Junior Kate Drab missed her regular volunteer activity at the Whetstone Homework Help Center at the Whetstone Library so she got involved with two online volunteer organizations, Interns-4-Good and Strive2Thrive. Through those organizations she has been tutoring a sixth grader virtually bi-weekly and teaching English to children in Ghana on a weekly basis. Because the Ghana school has one computer, she works with 3-6 children ages 7-9 each week. The challenge, beyond the fact that Drab does not speak their native Twi language,



Senior Dominic Contini started a photography business during the pandemic.

is that the children that show up for tutoring may or may not be the same as the previous week.

“I think it’s fascinating to see how different their culture and language are and also how we are all the same,” Drab said. “When they get something, you see the light go off. No matter where you are in the world you still have this desire to learn and improve yourself and it’s really cool to see it in these little kids. I feel really lucky to have grown up speaking English now that I understand how incredibly complex our language is!”

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Newark St. Francis de Sales students in the classroom



Newark St. Francis de Sales School second-graders Scarlett Messerall (left) and Melody Martin

Photos courtesy St. Francis de Sales School



Students Elliott Walther (front) and William Englefield in a fourth-grade class at Newark St. Francis de Sales School

FAMILY, *continued from Page 3*

“The school prayer community is so welcoming and joyful,” Ana said. “That joy is so uplifting that it makes you want to start the day being filled with it.”

The sisters also are members of the Diocesan Youth Council, which includes students from throughout the Diocese of Columbus. The group helps the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry plan the annual Bosco Bash for middle-school students and the Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference for high-school students, which usually take place on consecutive days in the spring. Those events have not been scheduled for this year because of the pandemic.

Clare and Ana also have attended Catholic Youth Summer Camp at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County for several years. “They love the entire week, but especially Eucharistic Adoration,” their mother said.

“It’s a powerful moment when the priest displays the Blessed Sacrament and they know Jesus is present among them. I’ve seen them bringing Jesus into their relationships with themselves and other people and praying with each other and their friends – not forcing it, but having it come naturally. In those moments, Jesus is very close.”

Clare said that after she graduates from Watterson this spring, she plans to take a “gap year” before starting college and attend training at the Damascus campus for youth missionaries. Ana said she is thinking of doing the same thing.

Angelina, the youngest sister, is eager to follow in her siblings’ footsteps. “I hear all about Prayer Club and the teachers at Watterson, and I’m anxious to attend school there,” she said. “Like my sisters, I’m an altar server at St. Mary’s, and I enjoy the opportunity to serve the Church in that way. Adoration is probably my favorite faith experience because it’s so inspiring.”

The sisters’ father knows the time is coming soon when his daughters will be leaving home, and “it’s not a transition I look forward to,” he said. “The sharing we’ve done for so many years at home and at church, the prayer life we’ve had and the friends we’ve made – all have kept us close to each other and to God.

“I hope the girls will continue to treat the expression of their faith as something that’s been ingrained in them. Faith has been a vital part of our family life and is at the core of everything we do.”

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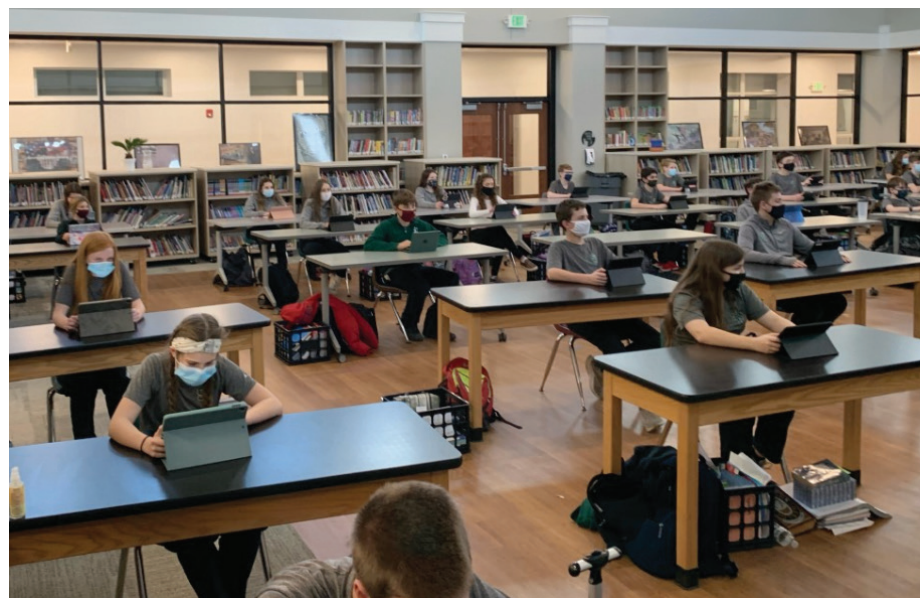
MISSION, *continued from Page 5*

several years. “During his last year as pastor here before moving to Westerville St. Paul Church (in 2019), Father Jonathan Wilson and I started looking at a preschool more seriously, obtaining the necessary licenses from the state and going from there. It’s hard to believe we have reached this point. There was some uncertainty about whether we’d be able to open on time, but we told parents we were going to do it, and we couldn’t go back on our word. Everyone rose to the occasion.”

At St. Francis de Sales School in Newark, the school has recently built a new cafeteria and kitchen and renovated spaces to become new classrooms and a media center. These projects were part of a larger building program centered on the construction of a Faith and Family Center on a site across the street from the church and school.

“A generous donor saw what the school needed most to provide for students’ needs,” said principal Sally Mummey. “The addition also gives the school space for future growth.”

The new cafeteria and new conference room opened in the school’s former Johnson Hall. The former cafeteria space has been converted into kindergarten classrooms and a media center. Slattery Hall, which houses



Students at Hilliard St. Brendan School work on class assignments in the school’s new learning center, which is part of an expansion placing the school and St. Brendan Church under one roof.
Photo courtesy Hilliard St. Brendan School

a gymnasium and preschool classrooms, also received an upgrade as new floors were installed and walls repainted. Heating will soon be replaced and plans for renovating the stage and sound equipment.

“The Faith and Family Center was

dedicated just before the pandemic hit, well ahead of the construction timetable. Having it available brought hope for growth and a renewal of faith among parishioners,” Mummey said.

Hilliard St. Brendan

A project to bring Hilliard St. Bren-

dan Church and School under one roof was completed just a few days before the opening of the school year in August. “Talk about providential timing,” said principal Will Gruber. “It took about a year to complete this first and largest phase of an expansion project for the church and school. It’s been a great blessing in this tough time.”

The expansion includes a new learning center, breakout rooms, small-group areas, new offices and a child care center. It was to have included an expanded cafeteria, but that space is currently being used as a classroom to permit safe distancing. Plans for future phases include remodeling and expanding the school kitchen, building new restrooms, and an addition that will serve as a preschool and early childhood education center.

“With so much positive growth happening in the Diocese, both in terms of education and construction, it is easy to see that the future of Catholic education is very bright,” said Superintendent Dufault. “We all consider ourselves to be truly blessed by the support we have received from our communities, from generous donors, and from the prayers of so many,” he added.



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Ad photos were taken before the onset of the pandemic and do not demonstrate the current health protocols in place at the school.



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Trinity celebrates 'Wilson Wednesdays'



“Wilson Wednesdays” are green at Columbus Trinity Elementary School. Every Wednesday, students at the school wear green T-shirts designating them as “Wilson Warriors” in honor of Joe Wilson, a 1998 graduate of the school who teaches math and science there and was diagnosed with cancer last January. Wilson is back in the classroom and his strength and positive spirit are an inspiration to everyone at the school.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School



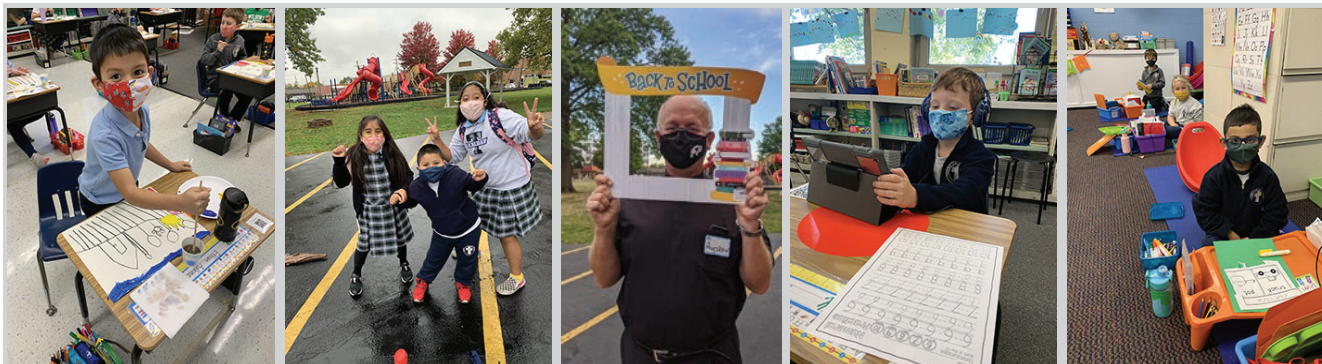
Students participate in a computer coding class at Columbus Trinity Elementary School.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School



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Trinity students write computer code

Students at Columbus Trinity Elementary School are in their second year of learning to write computer code to create websites, animation and video games. Their course is called Computer Science Discoveries, an introductory program for sixth- to 10th-grade students created by code.org and supported by Battelle Memorial Institute.

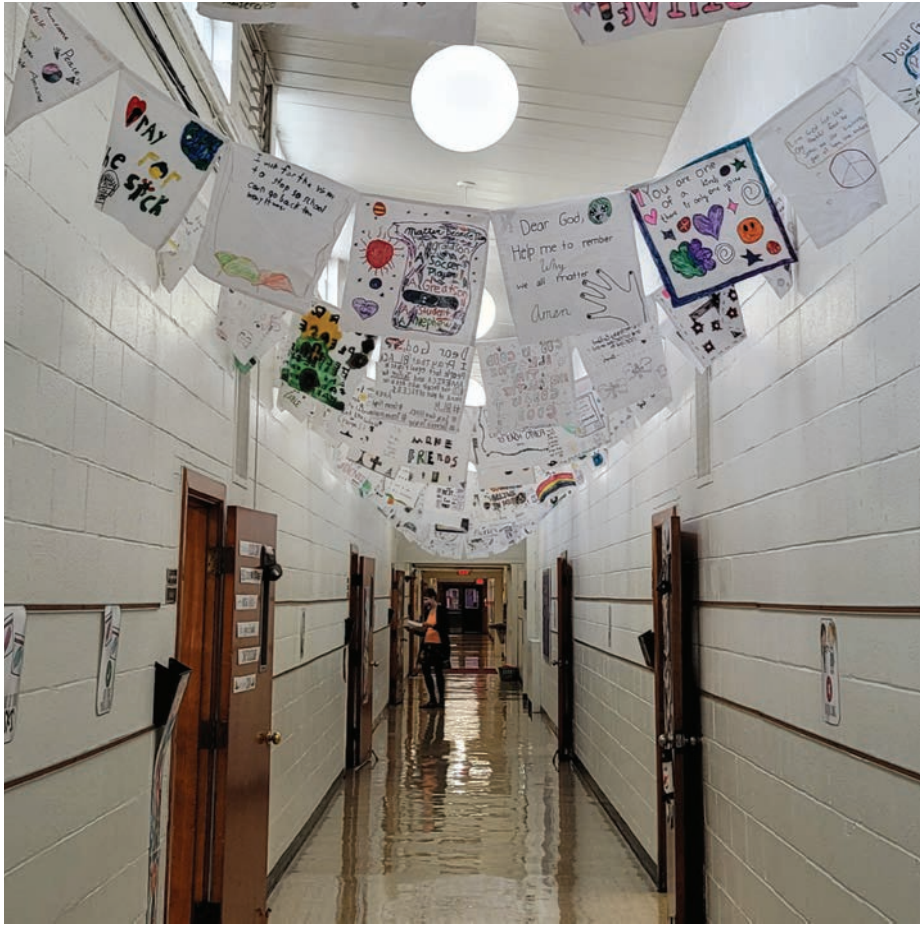
The sixth grade is introduced to HTML, the computer language used for creating websites. The final project for this class is to design, build and publish a personal website by each student.

The seventh grade is involved with more advanced coding that allows them to build and maintain the school’s online newspaper, The Titan.

The eighth-grade class, in addition to contributing to the support of the student website is learning to code in JavaScript, a language used for computer animation and computer gaming. The final project for this class is to plan design, and develop a computer game with animation by each student.

In addition to gaining skills in computer science, the students learn attention to detail, order of operation, abstract thought, problem-solving and design.

Holy Spirit students create prayer flags



Students at Columbus Holy Spirit School created prayer and mantra flags as part of a school-wide art project with art teacher Stacy Hinton. The flags are based off Tibetan prayer flags traditionally used to promote peace, compassion, strength and wisdom. Tibetans believe the prayers and mantras will be blown by the wind to spread good will and compassion into all-pervading space. The flags are hung in the hallways to remind students that prayer is powerful and that people of faith must continue to pray for and support each other.

Photo courtesy Holy Spirit School



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Reynoldsburg St. Pius X assistant principal Lisa Ruth (left) and principal Darren Smith connect with students virtually. *Photos courtesy St. Pius X School*

Videos highlight unique aspects of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School

When schools answered the call for distance learning in the spring of 2020, the St. Pius X staff believed it was more important than ever to stay connected to their students and families in real and authentic ways. While teachers created fun, virtual community building activities for their individual classes such as costume parties, dance parties, games, story times and scavenger hunts, administrators believed it was important to continue to connect with families and demonstrate what sets SPX apart from other schools.

Yes, many other schools and organizations were using videos as part of the day, but the SPX way was different; SPX videos were born out of creativity and ingenuity. Staff members and students were featured in numerous pieces that included music videos, live storybook videos, morning announcements and May Crowning videos. One of their debut videos featured teachers performing a parody “We Will Teach You” to the tune of “We Will Rock You,” while another featured staff members telling the story of “Mr. Smith and the Fallen

Tree Branch” to younger students, a comical take about SPX Principal Darren Smith.

Fast forward to the reopening of our schools in August of 2020. As staff members prepared for five-day-a-week, in-person learning to resume, videos provided a sneak peek into the building while sharing important information about new safety protocols that would be in place. Since everyone entering the building would be required to wear face coverings, administrators felt it was important for the school community to “see” the faces of their teachers and staff members.

Assistant Principal Mrs. Ruth produced a video based on the words Mr. Smith had stated so often during the pandemic: “We Are All in this Together.” The SPX staff quickly learned the High School Musical dance number and produced a high-energy video reintroducing themselves to the entire school community. Even their mascot, the Panther, participated! Visit St. Pius X School’s website at www.spxelementary.com or on Facebook at St. Pius X School-Reynoldsburg to see their cache of videos.



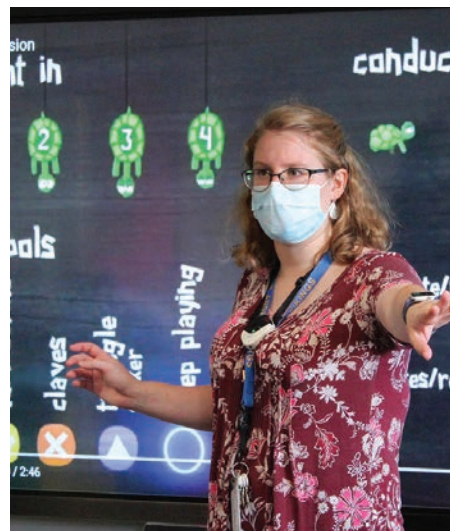
St. Pius staff members and the school’s mascot, Panther, learned a “High School Musical” dance number and produced a video reintroducing themselves to the school community.

Education 'on the move' at St. Andrew School

The sixth-period bell rings at Columbus St. Andrew School and the hallways are bustling, but not in the usual way. The crowd of students and the sound of banging lockers has been replaced by the sound of wheels. The students are sitting in their classrooms, while teachers glide between the rooms, pushing elaborate carts filled with the tools of their trade.

No one attending a Catholic school this year will forget the obligatory mask or the “zombie walk” that ensures students are keeping safe distances while they head to the playground. Another sign of the times is the mobile teaching station that emerged as a creative response to the problem of teaching multiple classrooms of students kept in their seats by COVID-19's restrictions on moving from room to room.

Much has been said about the precautionary measures needed to keep the virus contained. Less has been said about the challenges of teaching in-person during COVID and the inventiveness required of teachers. COVID has changed the process of teaching, sometimes in positive ways which would not have been seen



Ashley Biedenbarm teaches a class on percussion instruments at Columbus St. Andrew School.

months ago.

Fifth-grade language arts and social studies teacher Holly Gleason recalls the anxiety of the early planning for COVID teaching. “We had to deconstruct the way we teach,” she said. “Before COVID, the teachers’ desk with the stationary personal computer



Teacher Denise Coyne rolls the “art cart” through the halls of Columbus St. Andrew School. Photos courtesy St. Andrew School

was the hub of all activity. The bottom line was how best to serve the students and keep them safe.

“So when it became apparent that our students were going to be spread out among four classrooms, everything was rethought – how much pa-

per do you need at your fingertips? How many books? Not as much as we thought, as it turns out. Going mobile has been in many ways a freeing experience.”

Before COVID, St. Andrew School was well-equipped for remote teaching, with 23 Clevertouch screens. That number was increased to 27 during the summer. The combined use of Chromebooks, Wi-Fi and Clevertouch technology has enabled teachers to instruct multiple classrooms of students and still maintain contact with a handful of remote learners. All the needs not addressed by technology, including need for self-expression, were addressed by the personal mobile teaching station – the cart.

Teachers of the arts, many of whom serve nine grades in a typical week and as many as five grades in a single day, have been taxed particularly hard by the pandemic. Many of these teachers require supplies that can't be easily replaced with digital tools.

Art teacher Denise Coyne is an example. With her mobile art lab loaded with an array of color-mixing charts, 200 sheets of paper, 200 brushes and 60 watercolor sets, she resembles the captain of a parade float as she heads for the school elevator to make the rounds of the primary classrooms. Minutes later, her cart arrives in the lower halls just in time to teach first grade how to make stylized portraits of animals.

Ashley Biedenbarm, a wellspring of creativity who teaches music in grades kindergarten through eight, strolls through the school's upper floor to the fourth-grade classroom. Her cart is a colorful display topped off with a Bluetooth CD player and a Juno classroom speaker. Her students are waiting in their desks with basic supplies they've brought in from their homes. After a half-hour spent putting together an orchestra of shakers, maracas and other percussion instruments, the students are directed to a music staff on the classroom screen managed by the laptop on Biedenbarm's mobile studio.

After conducting a 15-minute concert performed on handmade instruments, Biedenbarm heads down the hall to teach the sixth grade about the constant presence of music in the form of advertising jingles. The days are tiring, but Biedenbarm takes it in stride. She enjoys the smaller class sizes, but is waiting for the day when she can put real instruments in students' hands.

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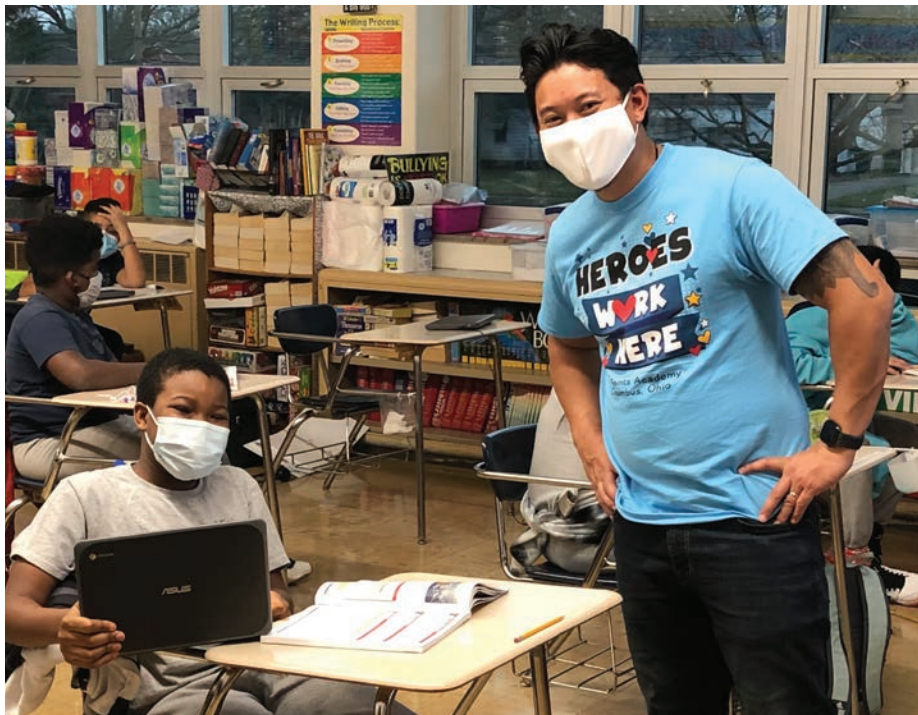
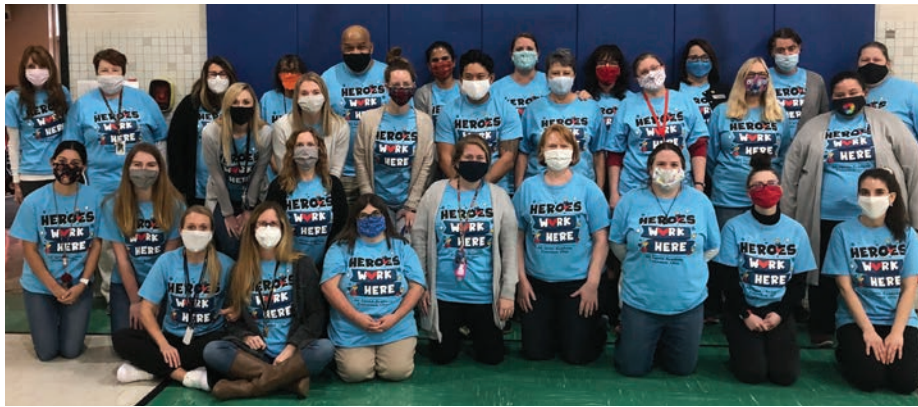
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All Saints Academy honors staff



Columbus All Saints Academy honored its teachers during the first week back from the Christmas holiday and planned to do so throughout the rest of the school year. Teachers and members of the support staff received a shirt that was worn the first Tuesday of January. Families sent thank yous, and the staff will receive little gifts, lunch, shoutouts from the students, and other reminders that they are loved and appreciated, especially for their dedication during the pandemic. *Photos courtesy All Saints Academy*

St. Brigid celebrates anniversary

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School is celebrating its 25th anniversary during the 2020-2021 school year, using the theme “With God We Can!”

The school will begin Catholic Schools Week on Monday, Feb. 1 with a 25th anniversary bingo game, with squares including fun facts about the school’s history). On Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 2 and 4, students will think about themselves 25 years in the future, will wear clothing representing what profession they want to pursue and will bring in artifacts representing that profession.

On Friday, Feb. 5, they will end the week by celebrating service to their community by raising quarters to donate to Feed the Kids Columbus. They also will be focusing on the school’s patron, St. Brigid of Ireland, with service activities modeling her work in feeding the poor.

During the past four years, St. Brigid of Kildare Church and School have hosted a series of parent workshops and speaking events that aim to educate and empower parents to deal with common parenting issues. Launched in 2016, the Crucial Conversations series has covered topics including overparenting, drug and

alcohol use, social media and technology abuse, emotional well being, and anxiety.

St. Brigid has hosted one to two events per year since beginning the series. Each topic is chosen based on survey feedback, current issues and trends, and parent concerns. Speakers have ranged from best-selling authors to local counselors, police officers and physicians.

The school believes that through parental awareness of these issues, talking with parents and children, and putting appropriate limits and controls in place, the risks of harm and addiction

for youths are greatly lessened. The topics focus on faith-based ways to strengthen and empower the whole child, leading to happier and healthier children and families.

The school is sponsoring a three-part parenting workshop via Zoom on the topic “Surviving in Trying Times.” Led by Sarah Buffie, founding director and trauma responsive care trainer for Soul Bird Consulting, the series invites families to come together in a supportive learning environment in order to engage with one another and with practices that help parents and families not just survive in trying times, but thrive.



St. Michael students receive sacraments



Worthington St. Michael students Skylar Leedy (top left), with Courtney and Adam Rohrer; and Gage Rutherford (top right), joined by parents Paudy Lopez and Richard Rutherford, receive the Sacrament of Baptism in December and Grant Rutherford takes his First Holy Communion from Father Anthony Dinovo, St. Michael pastor. Skylar entered the Catholic Church and also received First Communion.



Photos courtesy St. Michael School





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Bishop visits OLB for Epiphany



Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare (OLB) welcomed Bishop Robert Brennan and Superintendent Adam Dufault on the Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday, Jan. 6. Bishop Brennan read the story of the three kings' visit to the Holy Family to kindergarten students in the school chapel, then visited with preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students in the library as they showed him their "City of Bethlehem" Christmas tree ornaments. Students and their families fashioned the ornaments that symbolized their traditional role in OLB's annual Christmas Program, "An Evening in Bethlehem," from recyclable materials.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare

Catholic Schools Week at St. Anthony



Columbus St. Anthony School kindergarten students Jojo Gaitho (left) and Sahid Bangura display artwork they made for Catholic Schools Week. Behind them is a painting of some of the school's students in 1994 that was done by artist June Allard-Berte and commissioned by retired Father John Swickard, the pastor of St. Anthony Church at that time. During Catholic Schools Week, the school will have an all-school Mass, a dress-down day to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society, classroom raffles, a crazy sock day, baking with classroom buddies, ice cream sundae making, and Zoom meetings with students from different class groups.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

St. Agatha students stay positive



Columbus St. Agatha School students (upper left) decorated "I am thankful for ..." papers after a Thanksgiving prayer service that was livestreamed into classrooms. Seventh-grade math students (middle left) are staying positive during this challenging school year, emphasizing that with absolute value nothing is ever negative. Eighth graders (bottom right) sort donations from school families during the Student Council Thanksgiving collection to benefit the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (J.O.I.N.). A kindergarten student (above) takes a moment to genuflect and pray in front of the tabernacle.

Photos courtesy St. Agatha School



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