

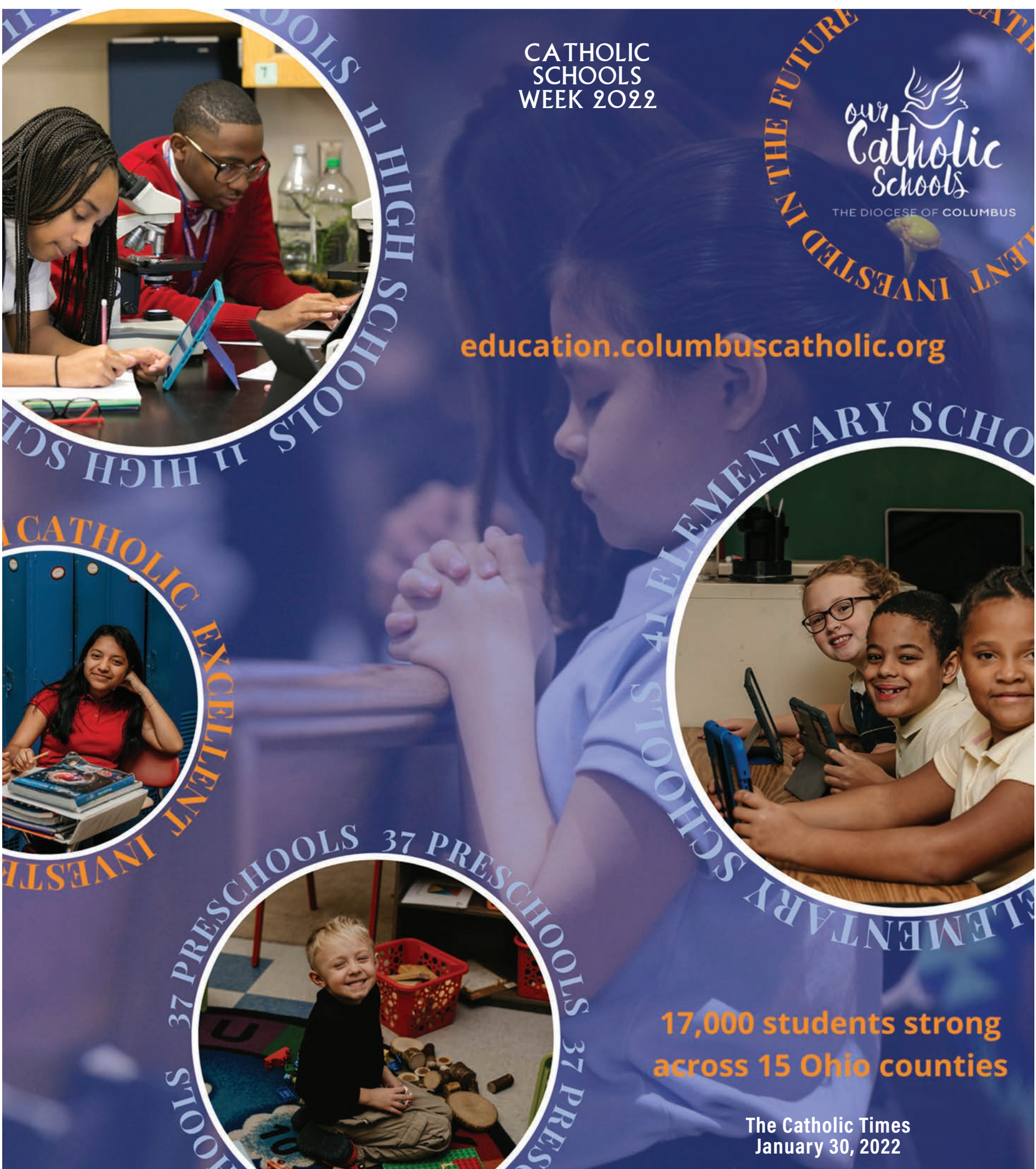
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The Catholic Times
January 30, 2022



Update on Real Presence, Real Future in Our Schools

By Dr. Adam J. Dufault
Superintendent of Schools

During the last week of January, Catholic schools across the United States celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This is a time to collectively reflect on the tremendous positive impact that Catholic schools have on the students and families they serve. This spirit of service, spoken in Our Lord's Great Commission, "Go 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" (Mt 28: 19-20), is the source of the Church's teaching ministry, which we see lived out today in *Our Catholic Schools*.

The past three school years, all of which have been impacted by the Covid pandemic, have been extraordinarily challenging. Despite the obstacles, the dedicated principals, teachers, and staff members of our schools bring life-giving and life-changing Catholic education to nearly 17,000 students in Pre-K through 12th grade every school day in the 52 schools in our Diocese. This week is a time to thank and to

honor those who give their lives to this mission. The dedication of our more than 1,200 educators is nothing short of heroic. I am deeply grateful for their perseverance, their dedication, and their love of our Church and our children.

As we've seen during these pandemic years, Catholic education in the Diocese of Columbus is precious. Because of that, we must carefully plan for its future, ensuring that our schools are vibrant and sustainable for the future. The Real Presence, Real Future initiative has given us the opportunity to develop these plans, and the final version of our strategic vision document, *Real Presence, Real Future: Our Catholic Schools* will be published on our website (education.columbuscatholic.org) at the end of Catholic Schools Week. This document charts the course of our schools over the next three to five years.

Catholic School Management (CSM) was commissioned in 2019 to undertake a comprehensive study of the needs of our school system. After a long process of surveys and stakeholder interviews, interrupted more than once by Covid, the pro-



Dr. Adam J. Dufault

cess concluded in April 2021. CSM generated a strategic plan presented as 10 goals spread across 3 key areas. Over the past few months, the staff of the Office of Catholic Schools has been working to develop that plan into an actionable path forward.

The first key planning area is focused on nurturing and celebrating the Catholic identity of the schools. The schools of the Diocese must be inspired by faith, and imbued with a solid and strong Catholic identity, committed to the mission of forming disciples of Jesus Christ for success in this world and in the next. The key goals that support this area are:

CATHOLIC – Inspired by Faith

1. Ensure an inspired Catholic community of school leaders, teachers and staff.
2. Partners with pastors and other clergy in their vital role of school leadership.
3. Accompany our families and students in faith.

A number of tactical actions are planned to address these goals. These actions will include enacting the school portion of the strategic plan developed for the Evangelization aspect of the Real Presence, Real Future initiative; continuing to develop our teacher formation process through the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University; developing better models for recruiting and retaining Catholic educators; developing increased opportunities to engage the priests and the seminarians into our schools; and implementing our new, comprehensive K-12 Religion curriculum.

The second key planning area is focused on challenging our schools to be excellent in every way. Our Catholic Schools must offer the people of the Diocese an outstanding Catholic

education, imbued with the Catholic worldview and forming well-educated men and women of faith for the future of our world. In order to accomplish this tremendous goal, we need schools that are well-informed, well-run, and well-trained in pedagogy. The key goals in this area are:

EXCELLENCE – Different by Design

1. Refine instruments and practices to support data-informed progress.
2. Establish school governance models that respond to contemporary challenges.
3. Guide the ongoing academic excellence of Catholic schools.
4. Enhance the understanding of the benefits, value, and enduring need for Catholic education.

The tactical actions that are under development for this area of our plan include developing a data dashboard with common metrics for each school; creating an annual report from the Office of Catholic Schools; developing improved school advisory board manuals and trainings; continuing to refine alternative school governance models; working with some interested schools in developing alternative curriculum models; and better serving the needs of diverse populations in our Diocese, including students with special needs.

The final planning area involved creating a foundation for the future of Catholic education in our Diocese. This area largely involved financial strategies and processes. We are working to ensure that our schools are ready for the future and open for the critical work that they are needed to do in a world that needs our schools more than ever. The goals for this area are:

SUSTAINABLE – Ready for the Future

1. Support the operational success of Catholic schools.
2. Sustain the long-term accessibility and distinction of Catholic schools.
3. Build a sustainable funding structure for school viability and vitality.

These goals primarily involve ensuring that the schools are properly and fully utilizing support from the state of Ohio; implementing best practices for development and advancement; engaging in the proper

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Photo(s) were taken prior to pandemic protocols

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Priests share their thoughts on the importance of Catholic education

St. Brigid Catholic School has been blessed with receiving the third Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education this year. Catholic Schools have provided in-person learning during the pandemic and allowed the vital learning and faith development of our students in spite of overwhelming odds. Each day I see on the faces of our children gratitude and enthusiasm and for being able to continue with their emotional, spiritual and academic growth. Catholic Schools Week reminds us of the precious and fragile gift that has come to us through the ages. We are happy to continue being able to provide that gift here in Dublin.

Msgr. Joseph Hendricks
Pastor, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church

I was not blessed with a Catholic education as a child, so you can imagine how privileged I feel to work in our Catholic schools as a priest. It brings me such satisfaction to see

how our Catholic schools are raising up the next generation of Catholics for the Church! Christ is the center of those places of learning, and our kids encounter Him every day.

Father David Schalk,
Pastor, Columbus Christ the King Church

Catholic schools are where we can assist parents in revealing Christ's presence to their children. Our most important priority in our schools should always be to help these children encounter a God who loves them unconditionally and that within the Church, they can find the fullest expression of their identity as children of God. Principals, teachers, and all school staff work tirelessly and often thanklessly to give the gift of Love to our students.

Father Nic Ventura
Pastor, Columbus St. Cecilia Church

In my opinion Catholic Schools provide a wonderful opportunity for the Church to form young people in the faith through the creation of a Catholic culture. The culture around us is becoming increasingly secular and Godless, and the only way to fight this is through the creation of a Catholic culture -- a culture of faith, a culture of life, a culture where all are seeking holiness and where there is joy in knowing and following the Lord. Our Catholic schools have the power to contribute greatly to this critical task of the Church today."

Father Seth Keller
Parochial Vicar, Columbus St. Cecilia Church and Chaplain, Columbus Bishop Ready High School

I love the ways in which we are able to bring our Catholic faith into the classroom and to connect the parish and the school in multiple ways. Our completed ONE campaign to expand our campus for both school and parish communities has really helped

us to build foundations that inspire us to grow as One Faith, ONE family with ONE future in Jesus Christ.

Father Bob Penhallurick
Pastor, Hilliard St. Brendan Church

"As Chaplain of Ohio Dominican University, I am excited to be a part of our central Ohio Catholic School system, where solid academics and faith formation are available to our children, teens, and young adults from preschool, through elementary years, junior high, high school, and university undergraduate and graduate programs. Along with our Catholic Elementary Schools and High Schools, the Josephinum for our seminarians, and the Mount Carmel School of Nursing, Ohio Dominican University, firmly rooted in our Catholic identity and the Dominican tradition, extends the opportunities for higher education in a Catholic setting for all in our diocese and beyond."

Father Dan Millisor
Chaplain, Ohio Dominican University



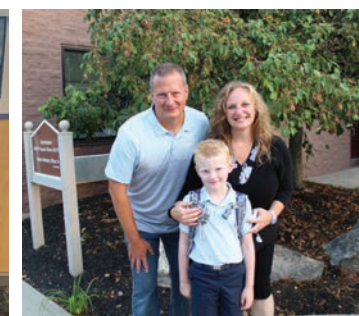
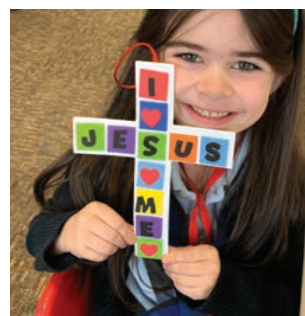
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Salesian Sisters a perfect partner in DeSales' mission

By Lori Dulin

Meet the Salesian Sisters at St. Francis DeSales High School, and you get the feeling they have been a part of the school community for years, not just the months since their arrival in August 2021. Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, Sister Monique Huart, Sister Guerline Joseph and Sister Joo Yun Park can be seen any number of places throughout the school day.

"The Sisters have affected everyday life at DeSales for the better. They are always holding the door at the beginning of the day and giving us bright smiles as they hold it for us when we leave. They lead Bible study during lunch periods on Mondays to help give students a break during their day, and they come to our sporting events. DeSales would not be the same without them," said freshman Marcella Valentine.

When invited to Columbus by then-Bishop Robert J. Brennan, the Sisters knew their dedication to "reaching the youth for Christ" was a perfect match with DeSales' history and mission. "From the start, we made the decision to be this present and involved and among them," said Sister Loretta. "And, our Salesian founder St. John Bosco wanted his priests, brothers and sisters to imitate the ways of St. Francis DeSales in our community life and our mission."

Sister Loretta leads weekly Bible study with freshmen and is "really moved by the kindness I see among the students. They just do it quietly and naturally. It doesn't matter the color of the skin or the nationality. That really strikes me here." In Bible study, students pick a scripture verse, the group prays and then they discuss and share out. One of the group leaders is not Catholic, and Sister remarks, "We all love the Word of God, so why would it matter that all of our students aren't Catholic?"

Sister Monique's work with students includes devotion to service and running retreats. "Students may not necessarily speak about God's impact in their lives in regular spaces right away, but retreats bring these feelings out. Talking about their faith, how it strengthens them as witnesses. Re-



Members of the Salesians assisting at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School are (from left) Sister Joo Yun, Sister Monique, Sister Guerline and Sister Loretta.

treats also provide important time for silence, reflection," she said.

Salesian founders St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello put Jesus and the young person at their mission's center. A large part of living out that mission is "dedicated to the education and evangelization of young people and their families through schools."

Sister Guerline's focus on the spiritual life at DeSales finds her assisting with prayer services and Mass preparation. "There is real devotion, prayer and inspiration here." When asked about the impact their day-to-day interaction with the students might have after high school, Sister Guerline reminds, "The seeds that were sown will not go lost. Society does not encourage these boys and girls to voice their faith or encourage them to practice it. We want them to be able to draw from their time with us here to keep their faith alive out there."

The Sisters' presence in Our Catholic Schools extends to other communities in the DeSales feeder family. Sister Joo Yun splits her time between St. James the Less and St. Matthias elementary schools, helping out with choir, recess and preparation for First Communion. "Most of the students had never seen a sister and called me a saint and an angel. It is so good to be in these schools, among the students and experiencing the charisma."

DeSales' campus minister Rebecca Metzger notes, "The greatest thing



Wearing DeSales letter jackets are (from left) Sister Loretta, Sister Guerline and Sister Monique.

Photos courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

our Salesian Sisters have added to the St. Francis DeSales family is the marked optimism that is always on display – from greeting the students to having the time to attend all the student events and cheer them on – sharing the gifts of love, joy optimism, and spirit."

Because the Sisters have made such an impact, the students gifted them with DeSales letterman jackets at Christmas. There is a famous Salesian saying, "You have to love what they love so they come to love what you love," remarked Sister Guerline. "This involves meeting the children where they are – social media, the football field, the cafeteria. Once you start investing time and finding interest in them, then the relationship happens. They come to know you, and that's how you start planting those seeds."

The Sisters are finding love and planting seeds wherever they go. Living in a renovated convent on Patterson Avenue at Holy Name parish that formerly housed St. Paul's Outreach, puts them among college students as neighbors and friends. They even attended a student pizza party at the Ohio State University.

The Sisters believe their connection to college students is vital to nurturing the seeds they plant with high school youth. "Seeds are planted but need to be nurtured. When students are graduating, we must have outreach to and

from Catholic centers at the colleges and universities. This is rooted in the preventive system of our order, so students have a support system. They have been sheltered and can get lost. There is temptation, but connecting them with people who can continue to be with them prevents a lapse in continuing their faith," said Sister Guerline.

Other events of which the Sisters have taken part include a women's retreat at Holy Family, the annual Marian Dinner, and they try to attend Mass at different parishes as they are able. Still, their daily lives among the students and staff at DeSales is the priority.

Principal Dan Garrick said, "When you interact with the Sisters you immediately sense Christ's love in your midst. While the world can be a very hectic and confusing place during these days of the pandemic, the Sisters have reminded us in their own gentle way that it is okay to live with joy."

This year, the more than 11,000 Salesian Sisters in 97 countries, along with their fellow priests and brothers, celebrate the 150th jubilee of the founding of their order. Their feast day is Jan. 31. Our Stallion Salesian Sisters look forward to a day when the first young woman from our Diocese joins them as a sister!

Lori Dulin is associate director of marketing and enrollment for the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools.

UPDATE, continued from Page 2

financial forecasting and planning; and telling their stories through effective marketing and community engagement. This portion of the plan also calls for the development of a

new financial model for the schools of our Diocese, which will be no small task.

Many pieces of it are in forward motion already, including the hiring

of staff with the necessary skill sets at the Office of Catholic Schools. Over the next few years, we will work to accomplish these tasks to continue to provide a solid foundation for the

growth of our school system. Please continue to keep all involved in this process in your prayers, and we thank you for your partnership in the success of *Our Catholic Schools*.

Mother, daughter teachers: Students curious about God, their purpose

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Judeen Hartge and her daughter, Molly, say the groups of students they teach are six to eight years apart in age but share the same desire to discover more about God's role in their lives and to learn their purpose as part of God's creation.

Throughout her 40 years as an educator, Judeen has taught third- and fourth-graders. She has spent the past 26 of those years at Gahanna St. Matthew School, where she has been the fourth-grade language arts and social studies teacher for six years.

"Fourth-graders usually aren't at the point where they have specific questions," Judeen said, "but they're eager to explore and starting to grasp concepts like their individual significance and how God cares about every one of us, and in turn wants us to respect each other's dignity as a human being and to treat each other with compassion."

By the time they reach high school, "students are questioning all sorts of things," said Molly, who teaches religion at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, mainly to 10th-graders. "In looking at Catholic beliefs, they've gone beyond learning what the Church teaches and want to know why it holds certain beliefs. That's why I enjoy teaching sophomores, because they want to have a discussion.

"Some are not Catholic or don't believe in some of what the Church teaches, or say, 'That's not what I learned in grade school.' I tell them, 'That's all right. I understand. Now I just want you to understand why the Church believes this.'"

Molly, a nickname for Margaret, is one of four children of Judeen and her husband, Frank, who has been business manager of Columbus St. Patrick Church for eight years after more than 30 years in shopping center management, primarily for the Jacobs Group in Cleveland, which at one time operated Columbus' Eastland, Westland and Northland malls.

Frank, a Detroit native, and Judeen, who grew up in Milwaukee and has a degree in education from Mount Mary University there, met when both were working at the former Gimbels department store in Milwaukee. They have three other children – Father Michael Hartge, moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Columbus, who is in residence at Columbus St. Peter Church; Frank Hartge IV, a physician with the U.S. Navy in San Diego; and Joseph, who works in New York City for an

economic consulting firm.

Frank said that although his work with shopping malls was stressful, "I never would have been patient enough to be a teacher."

"I really value my time at St. Matthew and (Columbus) St. Charles (Preparatory School) and the environment that Catholic schools provide. That had a positive effect

on my journey to the priesthood," Father Hartge said. "But it wasn't until after I was ordained and serving as parochial vicar at St. Colman of Cloyne in Washington Court House that I had a greater appreciation for what teachers do.

"In my last year there, I took over teaching Parish School of Religion classes for high school students. After a couple of Sundays, I called my sister in desperation and said, 'How do I teach and engage the kids?' It's one thing to know the material, but it's another to try to teach a lesson plan to high-schoolers."

Judeen said she always has enjoyed teaching the 8- and 9-year-old children who are in third and fourth grades "because they grow so much. You can see them starting to mature and to recognize the importance of school. This is a time when they're ready to start learning about and to understand concepts such as the virtues and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

"In my classes, I have students using the phrase 'I can' a great deal, such as 'I can practice the virtue of patience' or 'I can learn to do long division.'

"I also use books which are appropriate for that age to challenge students and make them think about certain moral concepts. One is *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, in which a boy has to lie to save his dog – an animal who it turns out belongs to an alcoholic who abuses his dogs. It shows how everything is not black-and-white or as simple as it may seem at first.

"Another challenging and age-appropriate book is *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, about a Jewish family escaping from Denmark in World War II.



Judeen Hartge (left) and her daughter, Molly, serve as teachers in diocesan Catholic schools at Gahanna St. Matthew and Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, respectively.

Photo courtesy Hartge family

but wonder if they're appropriate for the classroom," Molly Hartge said. "I tell them nothing's inappropriate, and they can ask me anything.

"My bachelor's degree was in theology, not education, so I have more of a theological background than most teachers. Sometimes students are surprised that I have answers to a particular question. There also are times when I'll say, 'I don't know' and look to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or ask a priest for advice.

"It's great that Hartley, like all diocesan high schools, has religion classes every day because it allows me to build rapport with students and for them to know they can trust me," she said.

Besides being a teacher, Molly, a graduate of St. Matthew School and Hartley, is coordinator of the school's student service activities and director of its house system, in which students from ninth to 12th grades form groups known as houses that stay together all year, working with and competing against other houses in a variety of activities. She also has been an assistant coach in soccer and lacrosse.

Judeen said she became interested in educating others because her grandfather once told her, "Go be a teacher. It's a good life," and the comment stuck with her. Her father taught high school religious education classes for more than 20 years, and that also influenced her choice to teach in Catholic schools.

Molly's route to the front of a classroom was a little more indirect. "I was influenced by my mother's teaching background but thought I wanted to be a nurse," she said. "I went to Xavier University in Cincinnati and realized

"I also emphasize the idea of the home as a domestic church and of my students absorbing what they learn in school and bringing it back to their families. Daily prayer, visits to the parish Adoration chapel, the rosary – students enjoy all these and take what they've learned to areas outside the classroom."

"Some of my students want to ask questions

after my first year there that I didn't love hospitals or science that much. I switched my major to middle-childhood education but didn't want to be a student-teacher.

"My faith was important to me, so I switched once more to a theology major, with the thought I might become a youth minister or teach religion in high school. After I graduated with that degree, none of the Catholic schools in Cincinnati wanted to hire someone without an education degree. I did become a youth minister at St. Veronica Church in Cincinnati, near the EastGate Mall, one of the malls my dad's company managed.

"But I found that in Cincinnati, the high schools are more involved with youth ministry than the parishes, while in Columbus, there's more parish involvement. I wanted to do more than I was able to in Cincinnati.

"Mom let me know of religious education positions open in Columbus, and there was one available at Hartley, but I thought I couldn't get it because of not having an education degree. But (former principal) Mike Winters and (former assistant principal) Barbara Casson at Hartley said my theology degree allowed me to be a high school teacher, and I was hired to teach at the same school I attended.

"Teaching always appealed to me, and I was always comfortable in Catholic schools, so being at Hartley felt right."

Molly eventually did receive a degree in teaching, earning a master's in educational leadership from the University of Dayton in 2014.

"It's just so rewarding to see students grow," Judeen said. "It's something that isn't apparent from day to day, but you do realize it when looking back.

"One thing I especially remember is when one of my former third-graders told me when he was in eighth grade that my religion class prompted him to consider the priesthood. I don't know whether he did or not, but it made me realize how influential a teacher can be.

"I've been at St. Matthew's so long it's become a second home to me, and now I'm teaching the children of children I once taught.

"I agree with Mom that seeing students grow and mature provides the greatest satisfaction for a teacher," Molly said. "You don't realize your impact right away, but I've received emails from former students thanking me, and knowing you had a lasting impact is very satisfying. You plant seeds, and you wonder if they'll grow, and sometimes you just have to take the long view."



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Sisters sow faith, positivity in Scioto County schools, parishes

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

A religious order of sisters arrived last fall in Portsmouth bringing faith, hope and joy to the Catholic parishes and schools in the southernmost part of the diocese.

The Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a religious community of women founded in 1991 in the Philippines, have been in Scioto County since Oct. 9. They were invited to the diocese last year by Father Stash Dailey, the diocese's vicar for religious, and former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan.

"Bishop Brennan had been looking for a religious community that especially has a mission of preparing families for consecration to the hearts of Jesus and Mary," said Sister Chiara, LIHM, one of three sisters assigned to Portsmouth. "Another reason was having religious in the schools."

Sister Chiara, who was born and raised in the Philippines before her family moved to New York when she was a teenager, is joined in Portsmouth by Mother Assumpta, the superior of the Portsmouth community who is from the Philippines, and Sister Soledad, whose family moved from Mexico to Kansas when she was in high school.

"I think the unanimous comment from the three of us is that we weren't expecting to be here last October," Sister Chiara said. "We thought it would be later, but somehow God moved us to come. And we really felt at home right away. It really was just the right time to come."

"We've been so blessed to get to know the families here. For the last three months we've just really been meeting people and learning the history of the county and about the heartaches and needs here, which we see as opportunities that God's calling us to grow."

The three LIHM sisters, whose charisms include evangelization of youth and preparing families for consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, have established their Portsmouth motherhouse in the former rectory at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church.

St. Mary is part of the Scioto Catholic Consortium that includes Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, West Portsmouth Holy Trinity and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains churches and that also supports Notre Dame elementary and high school.



Sister Soledad of the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary order works with students at Portsmouth Notre Dame elementary school.



Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters (from left) Sister Chiara, Sister Soledad and Mother Assumpta with former Diocese of Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan.

Photos courtesy Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Father Brian Beal has served as the pastor for the consortium since July. The parochial vicar is Father Patrick Watikha. Father David Glockner, a retired missionary priest from the area, assists at the parishes.

"As missionaries, our life is service," Sister Chiara said. "And the first thing, of course, is prayer. We come in and adjust and see where God calls us to serve in a particular way. Father (Beal) has been great at expressing the needs here and how we can be of assistance."

The sisters are a welcome sight in an area that has seen its share of difficulties over the past years. Economic upheaval, job losses, social issues, church closings and a declining population have impacted southern Ohio.

"I think the people are so grateful that we're here, and we've just received such a warm welcome," Sister Chiara said. "The question that we get, which really shows kind of the heartache of the people, is, 'How long are you staying?'"

The nuns have begun working with

children at Notre Dame elementary and high school. Because the school year had already started when the sisters arrived, they plan to become more involved with teaching during the 2022-23 school year.

"They're expecting us next school year," especially at the elementary school, Sister Chiara said. "We're not quite sure about the high school yet because they do have two religion teachers, but the religion teachers have reached out and asked for us to perhaps visit and maybe teach a lesson or two."

"Last fall, when the school had vocations week, we did some witnessing for vocations. Then we assisted with a Eucharistic miracles exhibit, and we'll go to Mass with the elementary students and also once in a while with the high school students."

Outside of the schools, the LIHM sisters are becoming involved with Parish School of Religion (PSR) instruction and are trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of teaching the Catholic faith.

"I have been reaching out to the PSR and the catechism classes in the different churches," Sister Chiara said. "We're hoping to provide the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the whole consortium, and so I'm working closely with some of the catechists and also hopefully extend that to the elementary and middle school if possible."

Mother Assumpta also assists with homebound ministry, and Sister Soledad is working with Spanish-speaking families in the Portsmouth area and in Columbus, hoping to assist with the sacraments and marriage preparation and starting Bible studies and prayer groups.

The sisters in the growing 30-year-old Leaven order have established a presence in the Philippines, Australia and the United States. In the U.S., the LIHM nuns are located in Ohio, Nebraska, South Dakota and Alabama.

"We live the reparative spirit of Christ the Suffering Servant and embrace a contemplative-active life of prayer, penance and apostolate exemplified by the Blessed Virgin Mary," Sister Chiara explained. "Responding to our call to be leaven of human society, we are dedicated to the education and formation of the young and the family."

"Early childhood, elementary and high school education and formation, catechetical instruction (including the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd), sacramental preparation, Bible studies, retreats and house-to-house evangelization (particularly preparing families for consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary) are all part of our main apostolate."

A typical day for the sisters starts with prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 a.m. They recite morning prayers and attend Mass at the parish where it is being offered each day. The middle portion of their day is spent doing chores and doing their assigned mission work in parishes and schools and with individuals in need. The nuns continue to pray throughout the day, and then they return to the motherhouse in late afternoon for dinner, evening prayers and recreation time before retiring at 9 p.m.

"Last December, Father (Beal) initiated Perpetual Adoration with the help of a good group of volunteers, and that's just been beautiful," Sister Chiara said. "It ties into our way of life."



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Photo taken prior to current pandemic protocols.

Business teacher promotes faith, work life at Bishop Ready

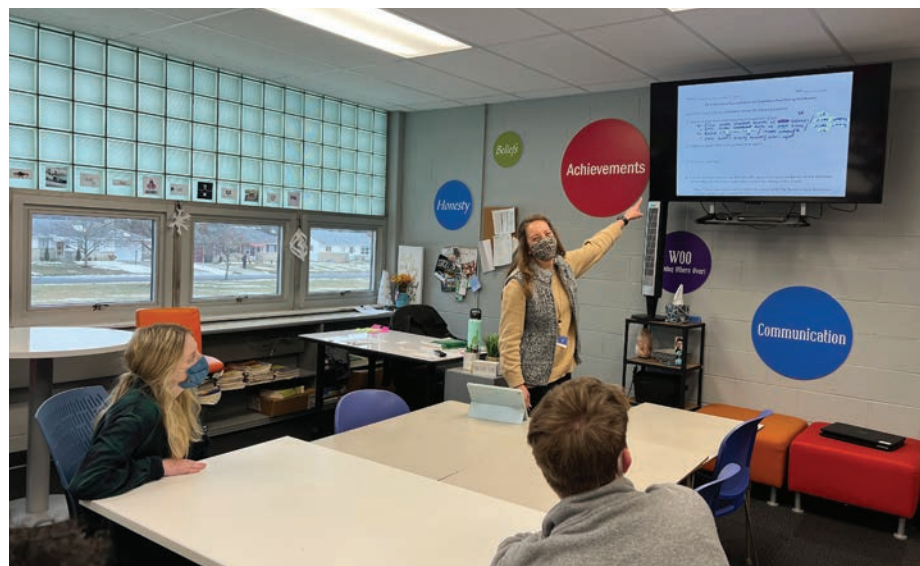
By Jenna Mar

In her two years teaching business classes at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, Cassandra Eschweiler has been an advocate for faith, respect and communication in her classroom. Eschweiler, who attended both a Catholic grade school and a Catholic high school, teaches a variety of business-related courses to students of all grades at Bishop Ready.

Eschweiler said that in her courses she likes to “look at the social responsibility of the businesses.” She also gives her students a realistic view of the workplace. For example, in her Personal Finance class, she creates a real-life job scenario.

“Students are basically ‘paid’ for being students,” she said. “They get payment for showing up to class, showing up on time and doing assignments.”

The students are given a paycheck after two weeks in class, but they must pay rent on their desk and chair. The paycheck has taxes deducted from the total. When the students receive their paychecks they can discuss the taxes and total.



Cassandra Eschweiler teaches business classes at Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

“I try to give them experiences that are truly applicable to the workforce,” Eschweiler said.

The students can experience other real-life business scenarios through their involvement in Future Business Leaders of America and by running the school’s Spirit Store.

“I try to empower the students,” Eschweiler said.

She also encourages respect and active discussions in her classroom. She said that a benefit of teaching at a Catholic school is that there are more opportunities for students to talk about their lives and faith.

“I definitely encourage students to have their voice,” Eschweiler said. “That has created an atmosphere where students feel more comfortable sharing their opinions.”


She also helps her students with other aspects of life, such as enforcing a “no gossip” rule in her classes.

“You should not be talking about that person because they aren’t here to give their perspective. They aren’t here to defend themselves,” Eschweiler tells her students.

According to Eschweiler, the students have accepted the no-gossip rule and have even begun to enforce it with one another. She also plans to start a “Thankful Thursdays” in her classes, when students can share one thing they are grateful for from the week and engage in a gratitude prayer.

Eschweiler provides many opportunities for her students to grow in faith and in real-world experience, striving to prepare her students for their entrance into the workforce and build confidence in having their voices heard.


Jenna Mar is a Columbus Bishop Watterson High School graduate and a student at Kent State University.




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New Ohio program offers tax credit for tuition assistance

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

A tax credit recently made available by the state of Ohio will reduce state income taxes for people who wish to support Catholic education by contributing to diocesan schools to help families pay tuition.

The credit, part of the budget approved by the Ohio Legislature for the two-year period which began on July 1, is the latest addition to the state's EdChoice Scholarship programs, which enable more Ohio families to be more active in their child's education.

The program allows an institution to be certified by the state attorney general's office as a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), making it eligible to receive donations for the purpose of providing need-based tuition assistance to families.


The Diocesan Education Corp. of the Diocese of Columbus was the first organization in the state to be granted SGO certification, receiving it on Dec. 7. As of mid-January, eight SGOs had been certified statewide, with four of them representing Catholic dioceses – Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo and Youngstown. SGOs must reapply every year to retain their status.

Beginning in 2021, people donating to an SGO for the purpose of tuition assistance are authorized to take a 100 percent state tax credit of as much as \$750 per person (\$1,500 for married couples filing jointly) for such donations in the year they were made.

Those who itemize deductions may still claim additional charitable donations on state and federal tax forms and receive the Ohio tax credit. Although the credit is limited to \$750 per person, there is no minimum or maximum donation amount. No additional state or federal forms need to be filled out to indicate such gifts. The Office of Catholic Schools will send an acknowledgment of the gifts to donors in accordance with tax credit and charitable gift qualifications.

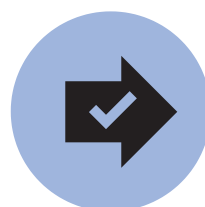
Tiffany Hatem, who manages development for the Office of Catholic Schools, said that in the short period in 2021 when tuition assistance donations could result in tax credits, 60 families supported the SGO with approximately \$70,000 in gifts. Donations made after Jan. 1 are eligible for credits for 2022.

"Our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Columbus have made tuition assistance a philanthropic priority. This aid is what makes a high-quality



ABOUT THE SGO CERTIFICATION

- The SGO program was created in 2021 for the State of Ohio.
- An Ohio tax credit for gifts in support of tuition assistance is an **investment with immediate and long-term benefits**.
- **No forms** are needed to make a gift.
- Donor receipts will be generated in accordance with **tax credit and charitable gift qualifications**.
- Although the Ohio tax credit is limited to \$750 per person, there is no minimum or maximum donation amount. **No gift is too big or too small.**



HOW DO I BENEFIT?

- A **100% Ohio tax credit** up to **\$750** per person per year (**\$1,500** for those married filing jointly)*.
- Those who itemize may still claim additional charitable donations on state and federal taxes and receive the **Ohio tax credit**.



HOW IS MY GIFT STEWARDED?

- Tuition assistance is provided to low-income students and families demonstrating increasing and substantial need in our schools.
- Gifts make a high-quality Catholic education accessible and affordable for all of our school families.



HOW DO I GIVE?

- Donate by **check** made payable to "Diocesan Education Corp" and **mail** to Office of Catholic Schools, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215.
- Check back soon for online donation capabilities.
- Donors will receive documentation confirming their donation for tax-filing purposes.

*Donations received or postmarked by December 31st will be receipted for that tax year. The Diocesan Education Corp and/or the Office of Catholic Schools, each a 501(c)3 organization, are headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. They do not administer the SGO program. They do not provide tax advice on credit eligibility. Please consult your tax advisor for more information. Credit cannot exceed Ohio tax.

ty Catholic education accessible and affordable for so many of our school families," Hatem said. Each year, the diocese provides about \$750,000 in tuition assistance to more than 2,000 families.

"The SGO can be a change agent for our families and schools. For many, it will provide access. For our supporters, it will allow them to guide some of their tax dollars while advancing a mission in which they believe" she said. "With more time, we will raise awareness of the SGO program which will directly equate to increased diocesan tuition assistance grants in future years."

"The diocese already provides a substantial amount of tuition assistance," said Seth Burkholder, Associate Director for Data Analysis in

the Schools Office. "Donations to the SGO for that purpose will allow more of this money to be granted. We are really developing two arms of our tuition assistance model. One is the Diocesan fund currently in place, and now the newly created SGO fund. These funds will allow us to award financial assistance based on the varied needs of families.

"As more tuition assistance becomes available, it will allow different schools to focus on different needs, depending on what's most important to them individually. This ties into the diocese's Real Presence Real Future strategic planning process, in which parishioners are helping to reimagine what we do as a diocese so it can move forward to best serve its people."

"Diocesan schools are forming their

own strategic plan as part of the Real Presence Real Future initiative," said Lori Dulin, Schools Office Associate Director for Marketing and Enrollment. "The plan will work in tandem with parish plans to ensure that the Catholic faith remains vibrant and alive in the diocese as it looks toward the rest of the 21st century.

"As part of the planning process, schools are looking at how they can maintain their Catholic identity and academic excellence while remaining sustainable and affordable. As the process continues, it's likely that schools will respond to challenges differently based on their location and surrounding communities while keeping Catholic identity at the center of everything.

"Some of that is being seen now, with St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village serving as regional governance model, while Newark St. Francis De Sales School is adopting a classical curriculum emphasizing the relationship between God and truth, beauty and goodness. I anticipate that other schools will choose additional models, focusing on what might set them apart.

"The diocese has nearly 17,000 students in 37 preschools, 41 elementary schools and 11 high schools in 15 of its 23 counties, and enrollment is growing," Dulin said. "The Real Presence Real Future initiative has been the impetus for the faithful of our Diocese to help guide the presence of our faith for future generations. Our schools are an active partner in that as they are evangelizing by nature. The Catholic identity, excellence, and future of our schools are exciting and attractive to people, and that is helping to spur enrollment.

"Affordability is always a great concern of the schools, and the new tuition tax credit will give many more students, both Catholic and non-Catholic, a chance to benefit from a Catholic education. We don't want a family's financial struggles to be a roadblock, and the tax credit will help to lessen this burden for families."

To donate, send a check made payable to Diocesan Education Corporation and mail to Office of Catholic Schools, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Donors will receive documentation of their donation based on the date gift is received.

The Office of Catholic Schools does not administer the SGO program, nor does it provide tax advice or credit eligibility. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.



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Retreats going strong at Bishop Watterson

Columbus Bishop Watterson's retreat program is going strong for the 2021-22 school year with Kairos Retreats continuing and the reintroduction of junior Telos Retreats. The retreat programs continue to develop Catholic leaders among participants.

With Kairos #20 set to kick off during Catholic Schools Week, the optional retreat program has now reached more than 1,000 Bishop Watterson seniors.

In addition, Telos Retreats for juniors are back on the schedule after cancellations due to the pandemic. The Telos Retreat program was created by the Bishop Watterson Campus Ministry staff with the assistance of young alumni to give juniors the opportunity to "find their purpose in the heart of God."

Samantha Nation, a 2018 graduate, participated in the Kairos program and then became involved in creating the Telos program.

"Watterson was a place where I felt a sense of support and community when I was in high school and I wanted to do what I could to return the favor," she said. "It was a blessing for me to assist with Telos."



Bishop Watterson seniors (from left) Julia Bently, Brian Zetzer, Grant Gilsenan and Chloe Demboski attended the September 2021 Kairos Retreat at The Retreat House at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein in Maria Stein, Ohio.



Bishop Watterson seniors (from left) Maddy McCandlish, Anna Emswiler, Dominic Bricker, Nate Arehart, Jake Vanausdle, Blake Tippett and Colleen Altomari enjoyed time outside during the September 2021 Kairos Retreat. Photos courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



A group of seniors attending Bishop Watterson's September Kairos Retreat gathered to watch the sun rise.



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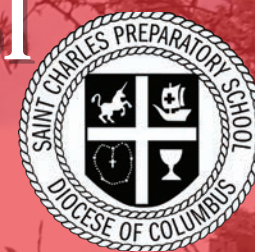


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Join St. Charles as we celebrate the achievements of our students during Catholic Schools Week 2022!

For a full list of activities and events, please visit www.stcharlesprep.org



2010 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43209 - www.stcharlesprep.org

Learning Formation Program yields results

A Learning Formation Program established during summer at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School to support its students and improve their academic achievement has generated significant results.

Under the guidance of the Learning Formation Team, the program offers students subject-specific tutoring, helping with time-management, improving study skills and providing regular checkups to monitor academic improvement.

“This is the first time in my 16 years as St. Charles athletic director that we did not have one athlete this fall who was ineligible to play sports due to OHSAA regulations,” said Dave Lawler, who is also a school faculty member.

Ned Gruber, dean of Learning Formation, said, “We are now being more systematically proactive in targeting particular students who need help early in the new school year, especially freshmen. The Learning Formation Team helps keep an eye on all of the students and bring help right to them before they get behind in their school-work.”

Freshman Gio Jimenez said he likes the routine and help he receives at the



At Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, a National Honor Society member and a fellow student work together in the school's new Learning Formation Center in Holy Angels Library. Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

Learning Formation Center, located in the school's Holy Angels Library. “I come up during my first period study hall and get my day off to a strong start every morning.”

Another freshman, Niraj Bista, said the Learning Formation Team has “helped me bring up my grades, has helped me focus and has taught me to go see my teachers to review before

tests and quizzes.”

Junior Michael Lieu finds that “I get my questions answered and can receive tutoring in any subject. There are people here to help us stay organized and keep us on track.”

In addition to the tutoring provided by the Learning Formation Team, National Honor Society (NHS) peer tutoring is also available in the Learn-

ing Formation Center before and after school, during study halls and during the school day's new Enrichment Period.

“The Learning Formation Team has been a positive addition to help the students at St. Charles,” Gruber said. About 100 students work with the team three days each week.

“Teachers are still the most important resource for students, and that is not going away. But the student generally had to be the one to seek out the help, to step up and go see the teacher, to apply for an NHS tutor,” Gruber said.

Within the Learning Formation Center, each grade level has two dry-erase board calendars on which teachers list long-range due dates for tests, unit quizzes, presentations and research papers.

The team also works with teachers to coordinate such dates. The goal is to give students more manageable testing loads and allow them to better prepare.

The Learning Formation Team adds another layer of help to ensure that every student attending St. Charles has the support needed to achieve his academic goals and reach his potential.

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OPEN HOUSE
January 30
11am - 1pm

St. Charles, DeSales participate in program to address biases

Through last spring and early summer, Dan Garrick, principal at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, and James Lower, principal at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, discussed ways to bring their schools closer together.

Lower said he and Garrick thought that a presentation by Carey Dabney, a professor in black Catholic studies at Walsh University, could help.

Such a presentation “would provide a special environment in which to share ideas and experiences related to forming and fostering communities that support students and families from different backgrounds, different cultures,” Lower said.

“It could also point the way forward to how we can grow and improve these relations in the future.”

In late 2020, several diocesan offices and high schools, including St. Charles, worked to bring Dabney to the school’s campus.

The goal was to engage students, administrators, faculty and staff members and parents in conversations on diversity, equity and inclusion. At the time, Dabney was also director of the Office of Ministry to African American Catholics in the Diocese of Cleveland.

Starting in January 2021 and continuing for several weeks, St. Charles

partnered with Dabney to share his message with the school community on “fostering cultural humility and what we can all gain from honoring the diversity around us.”

Dabney launched presentations and discussions with the school’s four grades. Then, in late spring, he spoke to parents who had been invited from all the Catholic school communities.

Throughout the summer of 2021, a group from St. Charles and DeSales continued planning future collaborative activities.

Just before the current school year, DeSales hosted both schools’ faculty and staff members for professional development and Mass. The theme, presented by Dabney and James Knight of Cleveland St. Edward High School, was cultural humility.

In their framework, the goal of cultural humility is to become lifelong learners about other people’s cultures and experiences, always intellectually curious and open to diverse perspectives, Dabney said.

The schools came together again recently at St. Charles to identify biases present in personal habits as well as institutional blind spots.

“The Catholic community has always been on the front lines of racial justice in America,” Dabney said, as

he stood in front of black and white images of nuns and priests in civil rights protests.

Walking away from this second gathering, Scott said, “The most rewarding piece of our work together is the collaboration itself. Issues of equity present themselves in a variety of ways. No individual holds all the solutions.

“Cultural humility allows us to understand others’ backgrounds by seeking different perspectives. Our commu-

nities working side by side to combat the inequities we face illustrates the commitment we have to making the world around us a better place.”

From St. Charles’ perspective, Warner said, “the work continues, as both of our schools face different but overlapping challenges. We have established some lines of communication and collaboration that will help us celebrate our students’ cultures and advocate for those on the margins.”



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All Saints Academy to celebrate homecoming

Columbus All Saints Academy, 2855 E. Livingston Ave., is sponsoring the first homecoming celebration for students of the former Christ the King School at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Those attending will be able to walk around their former school to reminisce about the past and view items from the school's history while seeing the changes that have been made to accommodate the current generation of students and the technology that was a dream when the school was built in the 1950s.

Cocktails and other refreshments will be available. Those attending are asked to bring their own pictures and other memories to share.

The school has been an important part of the Berwick neighborhood and surrounding areas for more than 60 years. In 2004, the Diocese of Columbus decided to combine it with other schools on the city's east side under the name All Saints Academy. For the past 18 years, it has continued its mission of being a cornerstone of the community and offering Catholic education to families in the area and beyond.

"At All Saints Academy, enrollment is at a high of 410 students and

is growing each year," said principal Laura Miller. "We maintain a place of learning, growing and making memories.

We are here to offer Catholic education to the east side and surrounding areas, and our successes strengthen our school presence.

"We have a critical mission at this time. We have been working over the past several years to repair, replace and upgrade the facility to match the important work of the building. The bones of the building are very good, but the HVAC, electrical, windows, roof and other aspects of the building are needing much tender loving care.

"The building has immediate needs because of its age. We want to continue offering a quality learning environment that shows the respect we have for Catholic education. We are continuing the legacy which began many years ago as Christ the King School became a place to learn about Jesus and take his love into the community. All Saints is carrying the torch and continues with the mission of making disciples for the community."

To RSVP for the event, send an email to Tiffany Hatem at thatem@columbuscatholic.org.



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Highlights from 2021-2022:

- A 20% increase in student enrollment
- Outreach to CK School Alumni and engagement with new benefactors
- Completion of a major facilities improvement project, which included a new heating system and A/C

Exciting News:

- The CK School Homecoming Event will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2 in the school gym.
- Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year begins on February 1!

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More honors for St. Brigid of Kildare School



State Rep. Tracy Richardson (center) presented Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School principal Kathy O'Reilly (left) and Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, the parish's pastor, with a state commendation on Dec. 16 for receiving its third National Blue Ribbon School award in 15 years. Richardson joined the student body after the morning school Mass and presented the award after congratulating teachers, administrators, and the school community for this success. Students then headed back to the school, where they were surprised with blue decorations as well as a Blue Ribbon School T-shirt for every student. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, under the direction of the U.S. Department of Education, annually honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools based on overall academic excellence and student achievement. *Photos courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare*



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<https://www.facebook.com/stbernadettelancaster>

jomiller2@cdeducation.org

St. Bernadette Catholic school provides all of our students with an excellent academic education in an authentic Catholic environment. Our preschool-5th grade program helps all of our students meet their potential while sharing the doctrines and traditions of our Catholic faith with them. Contact our school office to schedule a visit and learn more about our school. We participate in the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship program and we are a Jon Peterson Scholarship provider.



OPEN HOUSE



January 30, 2022

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