



Catholic Education Coronavirus Taskforce Newsletter

April 23, 2020

A Message from Father
Matthew Guckin Director of
Catholic Mission and Identity

The Road to Emmaus

Dear Parents,

When I taught high school I would often ask students to tell me why they don't go to Mass. And just as often they would respond by telling me Mass was boring...the same thing every week.

In these days of Coronavirus, when situations are evolving on a daily basis, I'm glad the Mass doesn't change. The Mass remains one of the few stable realities during these unsettling times. But even if we wanted to change the structure of the Mass we couldn't. Because the Mass comes to us from this weekend's Gospel - *The Disciples On The Road To Emmaus*.

The Gospel begins with two disciples conversing and debating. Is this not reflected in homes and church parking lots before Mass begins? Parents telling their children to get ready for Mass and arguing about whether or not to go?

It continues with a procession from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus. Well, Mass is full of processions - there's the entrance procession, the offertory procession, the procession to receive Communion and the closing procession.

Jesus then appears to them (though they don't yet recognize Him) and begins to cite passages about Moses and the prophets. He then takes the time to interpret them. Well, each Mass has a Liturgy of the Word - readings from the Old Testament, the psalms and the New Testament. Jesus even gives a homily, just like at Mass!

The disciples then make a statement about WHO Jesus is: a prophet handed over, who was crucified and risen. We do the same thing at Mass when we recite our Creed.

Finally, Jesus and the two disciples move to a different location where He takes bread, blesses and breaks it and gives it to them. We do the exact same thing at Mass - we move to the altar and celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Friends, I hope during this time of social distancing that you are longing to return to Mass. The Gospel tells us that the disciples' hearts 'burned within them' prior to receiving the Eucharist. But they were overjoyed when they fully received Him. May our hearts burn with love for Jesus as we look forward to that day when we will see each other...and receive Him with joy!

God bless,
Father Matt Guckin
Directory, Catholic Mission & Identity

From the Office of the
Secretary for Elementary
Education

Elementary Education: Serving, Learning, Connecting

Holy Rosary's 8th graders donated \$1500 that had been saved for their NY trip, to help their school community with tuition, food and general needs at this time. We are so proud of them. This picture was from their spaghetti dinner earlier this year when they raised much of these funds.



The faculty and staff at **Saint Cecilia School** went through their classroom closets and collected any hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes and took them to Temple University Hospital--Jeanes Campus and another health care facility.

The school received a message from Marc Hurowitz DO, the Executive Director. He stated, "On behalf of the entire staff at Temple University Hospital—Jeanes Campus, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your generous and thoughtful donation of much needed supplies.... Supporters like you are helping us live out that mission." Way to Go, St. Cecilia!!

Students from **Presentation BVM** made and decorated Easter chick cards to send to a local nursing home. Their gesture was greatly appreciated.



Spanish classes at **St. Francis Xavier School** took on a special flavor with Señora Coval's assignment for students in Grades 4 – 8. After watching three videos, *Made in Spain with Chef Jose Andre*, students answered several simple questions related to the videos and wrote three facts about Chef Jose. Some students went the extra mile and made the food item to the delight of their families.





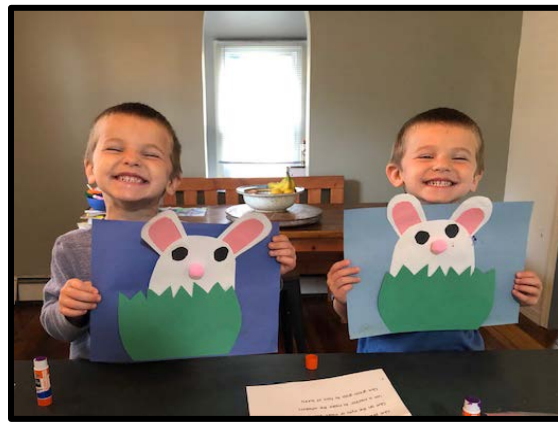
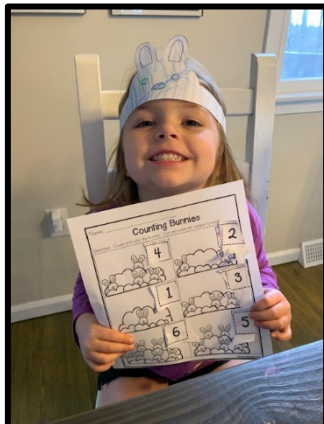
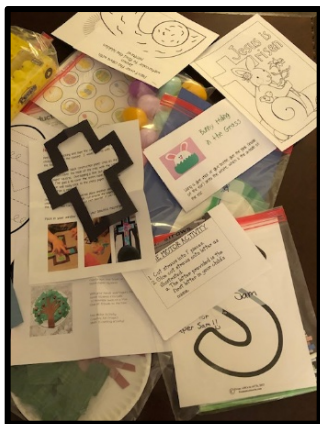
At **St. Katherine of Sienna, Wayne**, they look for creative ways to keep their students motivated and engaged. The eighth grade theme day during a Zoom meeting class involved dressing up in your favorite Halloween costume. The seventh grade class enjoyed playing online bingo after a Zoom science lesson. The principal and the teachers understand the benefit of having students laugh a bit and have some fun while learning.

St. Albert the Great School continued to expand its online learning this week. All teachers will now be using the on-line platform Zoom for lessons and classroom meetings during the week. In addition to the major subject areas in which the students have been receiving instruction, enrichment classes, including STEM, will be recorded and become optional activities for students to view at a time convenient for the family. These recordings will be attached to a link on the school homepage of the SATG website and will be updated frequently.



Students in the second grade at **Christ the King School** followed Mrs. Meghan Ruano's directions to Easter Bunny Directed Drawings. Don't you agree they did a great job while having LOTS of fun?

The PreK 3 teacher from **St. Mary Catholic School** created an activity packet for each of her students. Pictured below are the packets, supplies and instructions ready. These items were bagged in a brown bags and labeled with the child's name. The parent was given the option to pick up the bags from the teacher's front porch or the teacher delivered it to their home. The additional pictures show the happy students with their completed projects. This was the second round of activities provided to the parents in order to maintain the love for learning in the 3-year-old students.





Catherine Glatz , the fourth grade teacher at **St. Philip Neri School, Lafayette Hill** has her students blasting off into distance learning! These young scientists have been exploring the solar system as part of their science unit through lots of fun hands-on activities and experiments. From designing solar system models to conducting moon crater experiments, these 4th graders are out of this world!

On Monday, April 6th, the administration, faculty, and staff of **Blessed Trinity** rode around the neighborhood in a Teacher Parade so they could see the students and show their love. Both faculty and families held signs to show their school spirit! Everyone involved couldn't stop smiling! What a feel good moment.



Kindergarten Teacher, Suzette Moyer, from **Saint Mary Catholic School** wanted to bring the children more school work/activities. She also wanted to check in and see how they were holding up and to ask if they needed anything. She put in a full day's work starting at 10:45 AM and finishing up at 5:00 PM visiting students home, but still practicing social distancing.



Our Schools of Special Education: Remote Instruction for Children with Sensory Disabilities

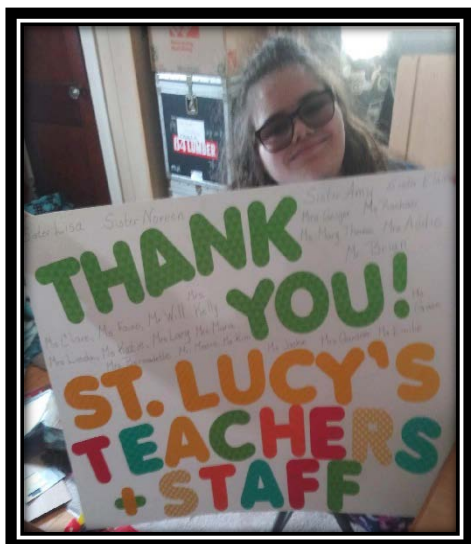
Archbishop Ryan Academy for the Deaf and St. Lucy's Day School (AR/SL) were ready to meet the challenge of switching over to remote instruction from the very first day of school closure. The use of assistive technology is extremely important to these students in both their everyday lives and their learning. We know that the students will need to be proficient in technology in order to complete high school and college, and to eventually to gain employment.

These students are taught to use technology early. Keyboarding skills begin in kindergarten which enables them to use touch typing from a very young age. St. Lucy's visually impaired students know how to navigate the computer without the use of the monitor or mouse, through the use of speech programs. Our blind students use braille notetakers to send and receive emails, complete assignments as well as navigate the internet.

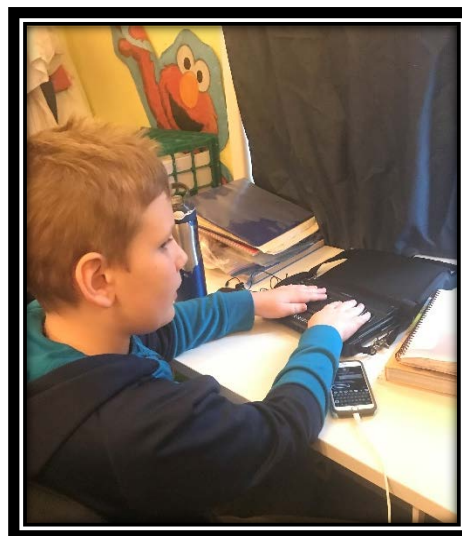
The Archbishop Ryan students are knowledgeable about using video phones, Facetime, Skype, and Zoom in order to communicate in American Sign Language in real time.

Although these school communities are thriving using technology for remote instruction, there is no substitute for being able to learn side-by-side in their school community. For now, families are grateful for the commitment of the AR/SL teachers to their students during this time of need.

Kim thanks her teachers!



Andrew participates by iPhone



From the Office of the
Superintendent of
Secondary Schools

Secondary Schools: Moving Forward Through Professional Learning



Research tells us that one of the most important factors for student success is *their teacher*. On March 13th both the students' and their teachers' worlds changed dramatically when Governor Wolf closed school buildings. AOP teachers were up for the challenge. To make the learning experience the best possible one and closest to their in-person classrooms, teachers took time through professional development to learn and implement new educational platforms.

As the Coronavirus building closure extended from two weeks to four, and then until the end of the school year, teachers and administrators alike identified areas of concern and a need for a depth of understanding. The focus and goals of the administrators and teachers remains the same, to serve the students' needs and to provide the very best possible instruction in secondary education. This includes striving to meet learning goals and authentically assessing student learning.

You
don't just
TEACH
you
INSPIRE

Teachers and administrators also understand that there is a social and emotional strain on all persons experiencing this pandemic. For teenagers, who find the richest part of their day being with their peers, discussing teen topics, laughing, and enjoying each other's company, physical isolation is very difficult and can be traumatic.

During their next professional development day, teachers and administrators have identified areas of focus to be: social and emotional trauma based support during COVID crisis and creating authentic assessments of student learning. Guiding questions include: 1. How can we best care for students as they go through this COVID/Virtual Learning time? 2. What are the essential topics which should be covered from now until the end of the year? 3. How can we best design end-of-year assessments during this virtual COVID learning period? We are truly grateful for the dedication of our Catholic educators!

Student and Educator voice is more important than ever.

- How can you assess social emotional needs that COVID19 are causing?
 - *Ideas*
 - Circles (classroom level and with your staff)
 - Creating a platform or process to obtain information (it is a must to make sure this is equitable)
- What resources does your school have and community have for voiced needs?
 - *Reminders*

Additional Resources from
the Counseling Support
Sub-Committee

The Pandemic Toolkit Parents Need

The spread of the Coronavirus and the mitigation factors that have accompanied the spread have brought about an increase in stress and anxiety for many families. In an article in *Psychology Today*, Dr. Bruce Perry, child psychologist and trauma expert, discusses how stress can actually lead to resilience, especially if self-regulation skills are utilized to cope with the challenges we face. Dr. Perry proposes 8 tools that will help families shift patterns and better manage stress. For the full article, go to [The Pandemic Toolkit Parents Need](#)

8 Helpful Tools

1. Structure your day
2. Have family meals
3. Limit media
4. Exercise
5. Reach out and stay connected
6. Help others
7. Practice good sleep hygiene
8. Stay positive and future focused

AOP Sports News

Roman Athletics Hosts Unique Charity Event

The Roman Athletic Department held a Virtual 5K Run for students and alumni on Apr. 18 to raise money for Philabundance. Runners were asked to take a screenshot of their time and submit to Athletic Director Matt Griffin upon completion of their 5K. All told, the department raised several hundred dollars for Philabundance, which distributed 26 million pounds of food last year in coordination with its member agencies.

2016 Neumann-Goretti Grad Selected In Professional Draft

James Madison senior guard Kamiah Smalls, a 2016 graduate of Neumann-Goretti, was selected by the Indiana Fever with the 28th overall pick in the recent 2020 WNBA Draft. Smalls earned CAA Player of the Year and first-team All-Conference honors this season as she averaged 18.6 points and 2.9 assists per game. For her career, she was a three-time All-CAA First Team selection, two-time CAA Preseason Player of the Year, was the unanimous CAA Rookie of the Year in 2016-17, and also made the CAA All-Rookie Team.

