

Autumn 2024



ESTABLISHED 1968

Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers

President's Message



Our annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 a.m. at Rachel's in Austintown. Hope to see many of you there. After the brunch we will vote for the high school contract ratification.

Welcome to our new Superintendent Steven Jones! We are looking forward to working together for the support of our teachers and our schools!

Thanks to the Building Representatives and the Officers for all that they do. We are very grateful!



The Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers



Is Inviting all Members and Retirees to our

33rd Annual Christmas Breakfast **with HS Contract Ratification to follow** **Sunday, December 8, 2024**

10:00 a.m. at Rachel's Restaurant
54 Westchester Dr #23, Youngstown OH 44515



Please RSVP by November 18, 2024.

Complete the reply form below, and submit it to your building representative.
(Retirees should mail the form to the Confederation office:

8090 Market Street, Suite 1, Youngstown OH 44512)

Reminder: You can access our newsletters, this invitation, and other YDCT info at: ydct.us

The cost of the Confederation member's breakfast is compliments of the Confederation.
Guests may attend at a cost of \$15.00 via check made payable to:
Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers. (Check must accompany reply form.)

_____ **No, I cannot attend.**

_____ **Yes, I plan to attend.**

_____ **Yes, I am bringing _____ as my guest. (Please attach check.)**

Name _____ School _____

Please return to your building representative by Nov 18, 2024! Thank you!





*The economy must serve people,
not the other way around.*

*Work is more than a way to make a living;
it is a form of continuing participation
in God's creation.*

*If the dignity of work is to be protected,
then the basic rights of workers must be respected--
the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages,
to the organization and joining of unions,
to private property, and to economic initiative.*

On The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

News From the Front

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

St. James School

St. James school is off to a wonderful start! Students have been jumping into the new school year with STEAM, Mass, and learning. St. James School welcomes new students and three new teachers to the



staff. Casey Loveless joined us from St. Mary's Massillon. She is our new 2nd grade teacher. Mary Miller and Shirley Kilonsky both came from the former Our Lady of Peace, which is now Christ the Servant. Mary is the 4th grade homeroom teacher and 4th-6th grade math, science, and social studies teacher. Shirley is our 5th/6th grade homeroom teacher and 4th-6th grade English Language Arts teacher.

We are also a full Union School now with all six teachers being union members.



St. Nicholas School

What a great start to a new school year at St. Nicholas School! Students are already learning so much and are showing so much kindness towards one another. To kick off our school year students enjoyed a nice popsicle treat to cool them down. The 8th grade class has been exploring the history of 9/11 through books, film, and music. They completed a project about heroism. Kindergarteners worked on an American flag using ripped up red and blue construction paper to celebrate Patriot Day. Students are enjoying the morning broadcasts. Fifth through eighth grade students are enjoying teaming up and coming on to be the anchors to share the broadcast and start our school day. Thank you to Officer Tracy for coming in to talk with the students, they learned how to stay safe. Eighth graders had a wonderful trip to Camp Frederick. They worked together to complete tasks and had a fun time making memories together. Third grade enjoyed learning about Johnny Appleseed taste testing, graphing, and opinion writing. In honor of "World Smile Day" Kindergarten and 8th grade students each found a buddy to make smile. They even got a yummy smiley treat that definitely made them all smile.



John F. Kennedy Lower Campus

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS —continued



St. Charles School

A new year and a new beginning..... We wish the best of luck to Mr. Bernard Scott and Mrs Vickie Allison who retired at the end of last school year. We will miss them. However, Saint Charles has added some wonderful new faculty members. We would like to welcome Ms. Cindy Wagner, who has changed roles from our secretary to our new first grade teacher; Mr. Pat Castranova is our new gym teacher, and Mrs. Sue Trewella is our junior high religion teacher. We are very excited this year that all of our students in grades K through 8 will be taking Spanish class once a week with Mrs. Vargus. The students are very excited to learn Spanish.

Saint Charles was happy to welcome 43 kindergarten students to our school this year. They are adjusting well, making new friends and loving school. Their beautiful smiles have brought such joy to our hallways. All of the students have been busy learning many new and exciting things in the classrooms in all grades. As a school community, we celebrated our first mass on September 11th. Also, our fifth graders enjoyed their time at Camp Fitch in September. They definitely made lasting memories with their friends on this great adventure. Our Saint Charles volleyball team sponsored a lemonade stand during one of their games to support childhood cancer awareness month. In addition, our eighth graders sponsored a lemonade stand during all lunches on September 30th, in honor of our beloved Nora. All of the money raised at both events benefited childhood cancer research. The fifth and seventh grade students have had a great time interacting with their new Kindergarten buddies. They have paired up for classroom activities, school masses, and outside recess.

One of the greatest blessings in a K through 8 building is the bond that students form with one another- We are a Family! It has been a great start and we look forward to all the upcoming activities during this school year. St. Charles wishes all students and teachers a great 2024-2025 school year!



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Holy Family School

Holy Family has had a busy start to the year. We welcome our new principal, Mr. Tod Morris. We also welcome new staff: Cara Bornemiss, Grade 4; Kalliope Sdregas, Grade 7; Carla Savko, Physical Education; Mabel Scafede, Spanish; and Dannielle Olmi, Art.

Our activities at Holy Family are in full swing. The sports that we are involved in are cross-country, volleyball, 5/6 girls' basketball, football, and cheerleading. Our fall tailgate party is October 18, where all the teams will be introduced.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Pontuti on her beautiful August 17 wedding. We wish you and your husband health and happiness!



St. Christine School

The 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start at St. Christine School ! This year we welcomed five new teachers to our building : Mrs. Steffani Metz, Mrs. Chelsea Vitucci, Mrs. Jamie Bass, Ms. Alyssa Wilburn and Miss Molly Pontius. We are so happy to have them join the Crusader family.

We are delighted to announce that our P.E. teacher, Danielle Lorenzi, and her husband welcomed a baby boy in July.

Our year kicked off with Meet the Teacher, then students returned to classes ready for new opportunities and challenges. Our football, cheerleading and cross country athletes continue to make us proud as they wrap up their seasons and we look forward to basketball starting soon. Our student athletes were honored at the yearly Bonfire at the end of September sponsored by the SCS Booster Club.

On October 4, we hosted hundreds of grandparents and special grand-friends at our annual Grandparents' Day celebration. The day began with Mass and then the students and their guests rotated through a variety of activities including a craft, raffle, photo station, refreshments and visits to the classrooms. Our Art Teacher, Ms. Christina Hammond, created a Glow and Grow Art Show and it was a highlight of the day. Special thanks Mrs. Jennifer DiLisio for once again organizing a wonderful day for our Grandparents.

Our Home and School Association is planning a Purse Bingo Fundraiser for November 9 that will fund many of our upcoming field trips and school celebrations. With our Halloween parties and parade scheduled for October 25, we know the joy, preparation and busyness of the holiday season is not far away.



St. Rose School

How blessed we are at St Rose to be off to a great school year! We welcomed Father John Chrysostom Kozlowski, O.P. as our new pastor of St Rose Church. We also welcome new teachers Amanda Smith (4th grade), Teresa Sweely (Spanish), Jeanette Cole (2nd grade), Lillian Fossaceca (5th grade), and welcome back Bob Gardner as our MTSS Coordinator /Counselor.

We started our school year with a whole school mass to celebrate the feast day of St Rose on August 23. Our students learned about the caring loving nature of our patron Saint. In remembrance of 9/11 we had a school prayer service and remembrance activities in classrooms. Our 5th graders went to camp Fitch, Kindergarten - 3rd grade took a walking trip to the Girard library and 6th-8th graders prepare for a retreat this Fall. On September 17th, Constitution Day was honored with faith and patriotism as Father John Chrysostom blessed new flags provided by Home and School for our educational spaces. Fall sports were off to a great start, and we had a whole school pep rally to highlight these sports and recognize our student athletes. Our home and school hosted our third annual Family Tailgate before the Ursuline football game on October 4th. There was a DJ, food truck and games for the kids. Fun was had by all.

May God Bless us all on the new school year!



News From the Front

St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

St. Thomas Aquinas High School

As St. Thomas Aquinas begins a new school year, we are excited to welcome several outstanding educators to our faculty. Each brings unique experiences, and a passion for helping our students grow academically and spiritually. Please welcome them to the Diocese of Youngstown.

High School

- **Matthew Arnold** – Social Studies

Mr. Arnold brings a deep understanding of history and civic engagement. His commitment to fostering critical thinking and a global perspective will enrich our Social Studies department

- **Larry Gabric** – Mathematics

With a passion for problem-solving and a strong background in mathematics, Mr. Gabric is eager to challenge and inspire students in the subject of math.

- **Jody Johnson** – Coding

Mrs. Johnson joins us in leading our Coding course, preparing students for a future of technology.

- **Anna King** – Religion

Ms. King brings a faith-filled approach to her teaching, inspiring students to grow in their understanding of our Catholic faith.

- **Maria Swalve** – Spanish

With a vibrant passion for language and culture, Mrs. Swalve will lead our Spanish department, helping students become lifelong language learners.

- **Allyson Wingington** – Mathematics

Ms. Wingington, another fantastic addition to our Math department, is dedicated to making math accessible and exciting for all her students.

Honorable mentions: **Michael Rezac** and **Zachary Kauffman** moving from our middle school team to our high school team this year!

Middle School:

- **Pamela Diehl** - English language Arts

Mrs. Diehl is dedicated to fostering strong reading and writing skills in her students, making English Language Arts a gateway to critical thinking and self-expression.

- **Kathryn Lacefield** - Mathematics

Mrs. Lacefield brings clarity and passion to Mathematics with her 35+ years of experience, helping students see the beauty in numbers and problem-solving.

- **Cat Telaroli** – Religion

Ms. Teraroli connects students to deep ethical and spiritual insights, making Religion an essential part of their intellectual and moral development.

- **Charlie Ward** - Social Studies

Mr. Ward engages students in understanding history and culture, making Social Studies a tool for navigating the complexities of society

- **Eleanore Morrow** – Science

Miss. Morrow inspires curiosity and scientific inquiry, turning Science into a subject of exploration and discovery for her students.

- **Joe Dillon** - Science/Social Studies

Mr. Dillion bridges Science and Social Studies, helping students see the interconnectedness of natural phenomena and human society.

We are blessed to have such a talented and dedicated group of educators joining us this year. Their commitment to excellence and the mission of Catholic education will undoubtedly inspire our students and strengthen our school community.

News From the Front

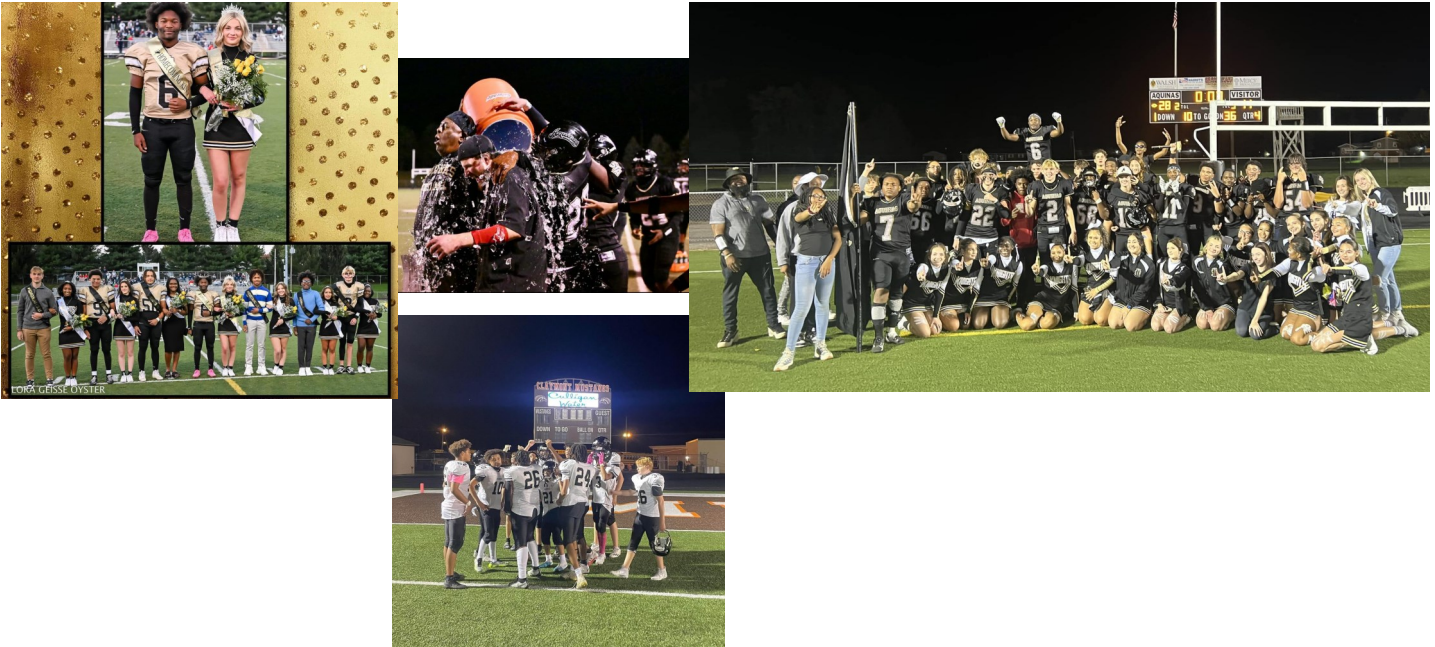
HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

St. Thomas Aquinas continued

This past weekend, our high school celebrated homecoming. Congratulations to the 2024 St. Thomas Homecoming King, DJ Cross, and Queen, Matigan Scalia!

Both of our football teams achieved great victories this October. Our high school team broke a four-year losing streak with a win against Crestline, with a final score of 28-14. Coach Henderson was also recognized in an article by *The Canton Repository* quoted, "Forty years later, an OHSAA state championship football team returns to help inspire St. Thomas Aquinas High School to end a four-year losing streak."

Also, Congratulations to our middle school football team for their victory against Claymont Middle School! Final score: 48-15. The whole team played great, congrats Coach Dillon and his team!



John F. Kennedy Upper Campus

John F. Kennedy's Upper Campus is off to an exciting start to the 2024-2025 school year! This fall, we welcome three new faculty members to our building: Alyssa Lunch (ELA and History), Sydney Phillips (Spanish), and Mara Wilson (Junior High Science, Math, and Religion). Mrs. S. Phillips is the third Mrs. Phillips to join our staff, and Ms. Lynch wowed our students by finishing in the top three of the 10th Annual Flying Eagle 5k! During the first quarter, our high school home rooms have been meeting with their partner classrooms. Our first chance to visit was at this year's Homecoming Pep Rally, and we look forward to hosting our elementary students at Upper Campus's Not So Scary Halloween House Party



News From the Front

HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

Cardinal Mooney High School

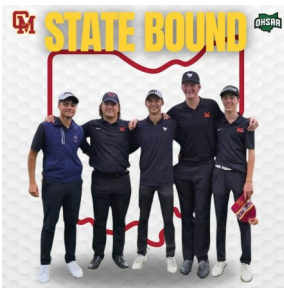
We would like to send out a warm welcome to our new teaching staff:

Sean Bowen - Physical Education and Academic Success

Dave Bernard - Science

Dan Tofil - Social Studies

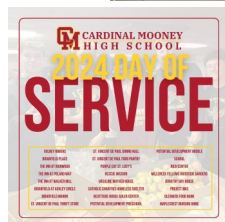
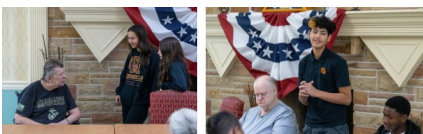
Recently our students took part the Hispanic Heritage Month opening ceremony at YSU and at the public library of Youngstown and Mahoning County. We had the flag ceremony of all Hispanic countries and some of our students participated in the parade. Teacher Marlene Bassil organized this for our students.



Boys Golf Team



Junior - Katie Pregibon



For the second consecutive year, Cardinal Mooney High School displayed a great commitment to the Mahoning Valley by organizing an all-school Day Of Service. Every student, and member of our staff, dispersed throughout the community to help give back to our neighbors. We greatly appreciate the hospitality of all the places we visited, and the opportunity to serve.



Cardinal Mooney Students Explore Robotics and Virtual Reality at YSU's Manufacturing Day with Engineering instructor, Sam Ronshack

Presently we are getting ready for our Fall Play. Come check it out!



News From the Front

HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

Ursuline High School



Ursuline High School is proud to celebrate our 120th year of excellence in education. This fall, we once again welcomed over 140 freshmen to the Ursuline family, continuing our legacy of nurturing and empowering young minds. We are also excited to welcome several new members to our dedicated teaching staff for the 2024-2025 school year. Please join us in welcoming:

-Terri Kenner and Tiffany Bendersky to the Science Department.

-Alex LaBerto to the Social Studies Department

-Teresa Sweely to our World Language Department, where she is teaching Spanish

Additionally, we would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Karlee Sweeney, and her new husband, Thomas, on their wedding this past summer.

Central Catholic High School

CCHS would like to welcome our new president Joe French, as well as new teachers Joe Frangos, Spencer Johnson and Emily Keane to our staff this year!



Joe Frangos, Theology



Spencer Johnson, Social Studies



Emily Keane, Science



Camp Wanake in Brewster has been our destination for Senior Retreat for the past 26 years. Our senior class just returned from their Senior Retreat!



Reminders:

Check Your Pay

We should all check our pay stubs to make sure the deductions are correct.

It is our responsibility to let our bookkeepers and the Confederation know of any changes affecting our benefits, etc. This includes changes of address.

Delta Dental

Dependent children who are over age 19 will only remain covered if they are full time college students and are unmarried and are listed as dependents on the parental IRS form. Further, dental coverage only extends, even in all three of these circumstances, until the dependent is age 25.

**"Trade unions have been an essential force for social change, without which a semblance of a decent and humane society is impossible under capitalism."
Pope Francis**



Among the basic rights of the human person must be counted the right of freely founding labor unions.

These unions should be truly able to represent the workers and to contribute to the proper arrangement of economic life.

(#68, Gaudium et Spes, Vatican II)

YDCT Executive Board

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Ursuline High School

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