

Autumn 2025



ESTABLISHED 1968

Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers

President's Message



Our annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m. at Rachel's in Austintown. Hope to see many of you there.

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

34th Annual Christmas Breakfast Sunday, December 7, 2025

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



Please RSVP by November 17, 2025.

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 17, 2025! 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



We have started the school year strong! We had an open house on August 18th, where the students and their families were able to visit the school, see their new classrooms, and meet their teachers. St. James Parish also welcomed two new priests, Father Kevin Peters, Pastor, and Associate Pastor, Fr. Frederick "Fritz" Schlueter.

Kindergarten and 1st grade celebrated International Dot Day with the book: The Dot by Peter Reynolds and STEM fun.

PreKindergarten through 5th grade celebrated Grandparents Day on Friday, September 26. Students read a poem and performed many wonderful songs in celebration of their families.

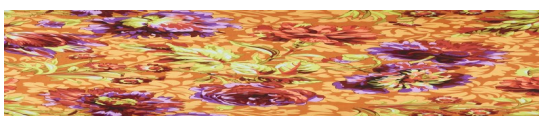


We are looking forward to more exciting events, like our upcoming Parish and School Trunk or Treat on October 31st for Pre-K-5th grade, parish dinners, the Christmas Parade and much more.

Here's to a great school year!



St. Nicholas School



John F. Kennedy Lower Campus

Exciting times at our campus this year! A warm Congratulations to Jamie Sklenar, now Mrs. Jamie Todd! We are wishing Blessed Happiness in the years to come to you and your husband. Mrs. Melissa Karman is now teaching in the Junior High, we will miss you at our building. We added another Fifth Grade classroom to our roster. Our enrollment is doing very well. A warm Welcome to Mrs. Elisabeth Wilson and Mr. Jeff Clark, our new Fifth Grade teachers. Also at the Junior High, Mr. Trent Wisser was hired to teach, welcome to our school system! Meet the Teacher brought many parents to meet their child's teachers for the year. We survived Spirit Week, cheered at the Pep Rally, went on field trips to exciting places, brought our pets to be Blessed by Father Cicero, and in planning stage for Family Math Night. Eagle Crew welcomed many awesome Fifth Grade students and the Go Green Crew works hard every Friday. Wishing everyone a beautiful Fall season and amazing school year.



St. Charles School

It has been a great start back at Saint Charles School! As we settle into the new academic year, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone. A special welcome back to Mr. Bernard Scott, and to Father Weikart, our new pastor at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish. In addition, Saint Charles is also delighted to welcome Miss Alyssa Ritter and Mr. Tony Candel to our faculty. Ms. Ritter is teaching 2nd grade, while Mr. Candel is teaching 4th and 5th-grade Science and Math, as well as 4th grade. We're thrilled to have them on board with all of us.

A huge thank you to Monsignor Zuraw for making our new air conditioning system possible before he left. It's been a game-changer, and everyone's been enjoying the cooler classrooms. We are so thankful for air conditioning.

Our kindergarten students had a blast making pizzas with Steve Cocca from Cocca's Pizza. They loved every step of the process, from dough to all the toppings! We now have little pizza chefs in grade K! Camp Fitch brought Science to life for our 5th graders in September. Our students enjoyed learning new and exciting things and also enjoyed a pizza party outside for lunch. Our student athletes have also been busy practicing- volleyball, cheerleading, football, cross country, and basketball teams- some seasons are over and some are all gearing up for starting their great season.

On Monday, October 6, our students enjoyed a very special day with their VIPs. We kicked off the day with Mass, followed by a fun-filled morning of crafts, refreshments, and doughnuts. It was wonderful having all those happy visitors in our school.

At Saint Charles School, we're proud to offer a supportive and nurturing environment where our students can grow and thrive. We're excited for a wonderful year ahead and look forward to seeing all the amazing achievements from our students. God bless everyone with a happy and healthy school year!



St. Charles School—cont.



Holy Family School

The 2025 – 2026 school year is off to a great start at Holy Family School! We are happy to have several new staff members join us. Nancy Muscat is our new secretary. Allison Littell and Melanie Jones are our new 6th grade teachers. Krista Antanucci will be teaching gym and Gina Daltorio will be teaching technology. We are also happy to add 18 students to our enrollment this year.

We kicked off our school year with our all-school mass on August 27th. Students and staff will continue living our motto all year long: We can do all things through Christ. Our sports – cross country, volleyball, basketball, and cheerleading – are all off to a great start. All teams will be recognized at our fall tailgate party on October 10th.

We are looking forward to our annual Halloween parade on October 31st and our annual Special Person's Day celebration on November 19th. Students are also getting excited for our first ever Saints Parade on November 5th. We are proud to have an amazing Home & School who already jumped in in planning a Nemacolin Getaway Raffle that will be announced at our tailgate party and an adult only Trivia Night on November 15th.

Predicting a great year for everyone at Holy Family – Go Dragons!



St. Christine School

The 2025-2026 is off to a great start at St. Christine School. We welcome new teachers Julianne Malleske, Elise Dean, Jennifer Ritter and Christine Fors to our Crusader Staff. Our Eighth Grade students were commissioned as leaders at our first mass where they also partnered with their First Grade Buddies and began a year long series of activities together. Primary grades also enjoyed field trips to the farm. Both the school's Choir and Cantor Group are sharing their gifts at school masses and the football, cheer and cross country athletes are excelling on the field and on the course. Under the leadership of our student council, we are sponsoring a Pink Out for breast cancer awareness/ fundraising in the month of October. We hope everyone had a successful start of the school year, as we look forward to the busy and fulfilling next few months!



St. Rose School

How blessed we are at St Rose to be off to a great school year! We welcomed new teachers Pamela Herriman (4th grade), Julianna Scoville (Kindergarten), Madison Zickefoose (2nd grade), and Kristine Smith (1st grade).

We started our school year with a whole school mass to celebrate the feast day of St Rose on August 22. Our students learned about the caring loving nature of our patron Saint. September activities include students learning keyboard in music and working with paper mache in art. In remembrance of 9/11 we had a school prayer service and remembrance activities in classrooms. Our Kindergarten - 3rd grade classes took a fun trip to Kutcha Farms as they welcomed Fall. Eighth graders partner up with our Kindergarten classes weekly to work together on projects and read with them. 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.

We are continuing to work with our Virtues in Practice program recognizing students who live out the virtue each month. Students who are nominated by teachers are rewarded with a book token to use in our new book vending machine.

May God Bless us all in the new school year!



News From the Front

St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

It's been an exciting start to the year in STA Middle School! We're thrilled to welcome several new teachers to our team: Elizabeth Charlton – 7th & 8th Grade ELA, Daniel Beadles – 7th & 8th Grade Social Studies, Rikwon Moore – Middle School Gym, Ryan Murgatroyd – 7th & 8th Grade Religion, Cassandra St. Claire – Art, Eliana Monnet – 6th Grade Social Studies & Science. We're also happy to share that Cat Telaroli has joined the 6th grade team after teaching 7th and 8th grade last year!

This week, our 7th graders took part in their leadership camp, where they grew in faith, teamwork, and their relationship with Jesus. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to connect with classmates and reflect on what it means to lead with kindness and purpose.



St. Thomas Aquinas High School

"We Can Get There." St. Thomas Aquinas High School proudly welcomes Mr. Kevin T. Irvine as our new principal. Mr. Irvine brings with him a dynamic vision to reimagine STA—its mission, its vision, and its standard of excellence. His guiding message, *"We can get there,"* reflects his belief in teamwork, faith, and a shared pursuit of excellence throughout our school community.

New Faces, Same Aquinas Spirit: We also extend a welcome to several new members of our high school faculty: Mr. Glenn Vaughn – Digital Design, Mr. Todd VanReeth – Social Studies, Mrs. Riley Brown – Spanish, Mr. Ken Brunner – Mathematics, Miss Katlyn Stewart – Mathematics, Mr. Griffie Zemrock – Science, Mrs. Vicki Capretta – Religion. These talented educators bring energy, creativity, and dedication to the classroom as we continue to uphold our tradition of academic excellence and faith-filled learning.

Knight Pride in Full Swing: The excitement of the new school year is in full motion as our students celebrate Homecoming Week and the spirited PowderPuff Volleyball and Football games—a time-honored tradition that brings together our junior and senior classes for some friendly competition and school pride.

Under Mr. Irvine's leadership, and with the enthusiasm of our students and staff, Aquinas moves forward with renewed energy, faith, and purpose—because together, *we can get there!*



News From the Front

HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

John F. Kennedy Upper Campus

John F. Kennedy's Upper Campus has had an eventful start to the 2025-2026 school year! This fall, we welcome four new faculty members to our building: Joanna Feathers (Spanish), Lindsay Connell (Math), Jenna McCarty (French), and Trent Wisser (ELA). Melissa Karman has moved from the Lower Campus to the Upper Campus. This year, we have expanded our Birds of a Feather Program to include the junior high. Houses and homerooms in grades 7-12 are paired with homerooms in grades K-6. We hope to see our big eagles become role models to our younger students. 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.

Cardinal Mooney High School

Cardinal Mooney has a new principal Brendan Considine. Nick Beyer remains as President. Beth Jones joins us as Campus Minister. The golf team moved on to State and our other sports teams also enjoyed successful seasons. Jennifer Policy's AP Chemistry and Honors Chemistry classes went to YSU on September 16th to tour the facilities there and learn about what YSU has to offer. Janet Cadman's class also went to YSU this quarter to see their advanced manufacturing facilities and had some fun hands on experiences. St. Michael's garden is starting to grow again on Erie Street thanks to Dave Bernard's environmental science classes. The art club advised by Reenie Kandray and Sean Butler recently created a scarecrow for Mill Creek Park's twilight pumpkin walk. The Spanish Club, advised by Marlene Bassil, had a special lunch for Hispanic Heritage Month. Her AP Spanish students also went to YSU for Hispanic Heritage Month on September 25th for the opening events. The whole school celebrated service day on September 24th. Students cleaned the school, made blankets, sent cards to various nursing homes, and beautified the outside of the school.

Students rebuilding the beds for St. Michael's Garden



Students with their scarecrow



News From the Front

HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

Ursuline High School

Once again, the halls are alive with activity as we welcomed over 500 students back to school! We are also to welcome a few new faces to the building. Mr. Jason Kodysz brings his expertise to the Science Department, and Mr. Steven Hiner joins us in the Social Studies Department as our newest member. We look forward to the many ways they will enrich our Ursuline Family. In addition, we are thrilled to welcome back Mrs. Aimee Morrison, who is serving as the new coordinator for our House System. The program kicked off to a fantastic start this year, and House competitions are already in full swing. We can't wait to crown our first winners of the Shamrock Cup later this school year!



Ursuline Teachers in their House Shirts

We have again had an amazing year with AP scores, with an overall pass rate of 91% and 100% pass rates in AP Biology, AP Calculus AB and BC, AP Chemistry, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Drawing, AP English Literature, AP French, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Seminar, and AP Research.



Mr. Jason Kodysz



Mr. Steven Hiner



Ursuline students also demonstrated their commitment to service, completing over 7000 hours of volunteer work throughout our community last school year!



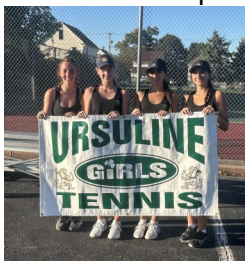
We extend a heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Cindy Lacko on the arrival of her latest two grandchildren! Both were born within a few weeks of each other at the start of this school year!



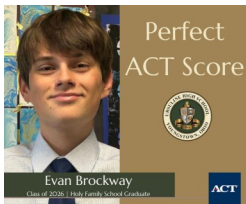
Congratulations to senior Evan Brockway, who earned a perfect of 36 on the ACT, placing him in the top 0.25% of test-takers nationwide. Evan is a proud graduate of Holy Family School.



Senior Breen Dahman represented Ursuline in the OHSAA Division II State Tournament for Golf in early October. We congratulate Breen on an incredible accomplishment!



Finally, our students had an amazing evening at this year's Powder Puff Tournament. Multiple teams from each grade level participated, making it a night full of school spirit, teamwork, and fun for everyone!



Best of luck to Maria, Maddie, Emma, and Anna who will be representing Ursuline at the Division II District Tennis Tournament in Akron. The winners of this tournament advance to the State Finals next week. They are coached by Rob Schneider. Go Irish Tennis!

Central Catholic High School

CCHS is off to a good start for this year! We welcomed new classroom teachers, Cristina Davis, Spanish; Cara Lipinski, Theology; Corey Nist, Social Studies and Jenny Pollard, Art. We also welcomed Tiffany Sanford, Tutor, Jessica Pregizer, Intervention Specialist, and Shannan Dick, Study Hall Moderator. We are happy to have them all as part of our CCHS community!

A few highlights of our recent days include that the seniors had a service day at the Maps Air Museum helping veterans. Seniors also had their Senior Retreat at Camp Wanake. It was both a good time and a beautiful experience communally, as well as spiritually. Underclassmen had their Service Day in which they went to a variety of sites to spend time helping. Fall sport seasons are winding down into tournament time. We recently welcomed two exchange students from Guatemala and are hoping that they have a positive experience here.



Camp Wanake in Brewster has been our destination for Senior Retreat for the past 27 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

Matthew DiRuzza with Sirak Financial Services is our agent for our dental benefits with Delta Dental. If you have any questions or concerns about your benefits, please reach out to Matt or one of his benefit specialists: Jennifer Cassidy and Jennifer Stayer.

Sirak Financial—330 493 3211

Jennifer C jcassidy@sirakfinancial.com Jennifer S jstayer@sirakfinancial.com

**"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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Central Catholic High School

John Peplowski - High School Vice President
Ursuline High School

Kathleen Schneider - Elementary Vice President
St. Charles School

Mary Ann Morrison - Treasurer
Central Catholic High School

Maria Dick - Secretary
Central Catholic High School



OFFICE MANAGER **Jackie Prologo**



Jackie Prologo,



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St. James School

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John F. Kennedy High School

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St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

Jodi Stroia
St. Thomas Aquinas High School

