

Autumn 2026



ESTABLISHED 1968

Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers

President's Message



Our annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Rachel's in Austintown. Elementary and High School members, please plan to stay for approval of a few constitutional revisions immediately after the brunch. High School contract ratification will follow. 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



35th Annual Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 6, 2026

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

Elementary and High School members, please plan to stay for approval of a few constitutional revisions immediately after the breakfast. High School contract ratification will follow.

Please RSVP by November 16, 2026.

Complete the reply form below, & 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 16, 2026! 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 had a lot of fun things happening here at St. James School as we kicked off the school year. We have a new Principal, Mr. David Fischer. Mr. LaPolla, a seminarian, has joined our catechists in teaching religion weekly. And we have a new third-grade teacher, Julianna Borsillino.

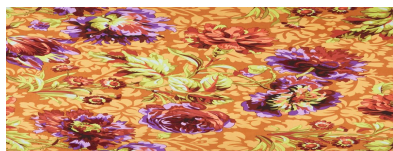
St. James had a special visit on September 5th by the Kona Ice Truck, donated by one of our wonderful families. We had a September 11th memorial ceremony at our flag with a short reading and blessing by Father Fritz. We celebrated International Dot Day on September 15th, during which students learned about growth vs. fixed mindset. They then engaged in a STEM project with Dots candy. September 18th, we baptized two of our students and their grandparents as part of the weekly Mass celebration. It was an endearing moment for our students to witness.

Our students have enjoyed a lot of hands-on learning, from games to STEM/STREAM. And the year has just started! We have other fun activities and some field trips planned for the next several months. We are looking forward to sharing our "St. James Difference".



John F. Kennedy Lower Campus

As the school year flies by, our students have been hard at work and making wonderful progress every day. With all the momentum underway, we want to take a moment to bid a heartfelt farewell to the staff members who have recently retired or embarked on new career paths—your dedication will be deeply missed, and we wish you the absolute best in your next chapters! At the same time, we are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to Adrianna Lamonge and Kristen Fries as they join our school community. We wish both of you much success in your new roles! Looking ahead, we have plenty of exciting school events on the horizon, so stay tuned for updates as we continue this fantastic year together.



St. Nicholas School

The 2026–2027 school year is off to a terrific start at St. Nicholas School! Our hallways and classrooms have been filled with smiles, learning, laughter, and lots of exciting activities.

The year has already been filled with hands-on learning experiences, including science experiments that brought lessons to life. Kindergarten celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day by learning about Johnny Appleseed and enjoying a special apple-tasting activity.

During Constitution Day, classes explored the importance of our nation's founding document. In religion, children shared their appreciation for Fr. Tom by writing special letters in honor of Priesthood Sunday.

Our 8th graders kicked off the year with a memorable trip to Camp Frederick, where team-building activities encouraged cooperation, friendship, and class unity.

We are also proud to recognize those who consistently model good behavior, kindness, responsibility, and respect. Each week, these positive examples are celebrated through our Students of the Week program.

Take a look at some of the smiles and special moments from the beginning of our school year. We are excited for all that is ahead at St. Nicholas!



St. Charles School

The beginning of the year at St. Charles has been an exciting one! We were all overjoyed to welcome back Father Steve Zeigler as our Pastor. Our teachers were blessed to participate in a very special Mass with him before the start of the school year. He is a blessing to our Parish and to our school community. Teachers and students were excited to share that new desks have been added, and the downstairs classrooms were especially thrilled to receive them this year.

We are also thrilled to welcome two new members to our staff: Ms. Cara Bornemiss and Mrs. Stephanie Greco. Ms. Bornemiss is currently teaching our fourth and fifth graders, and Mrs. Greco is teaching third grade. They have both been wonderful additions to our St. Charles family.

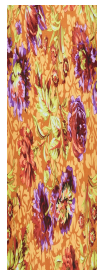
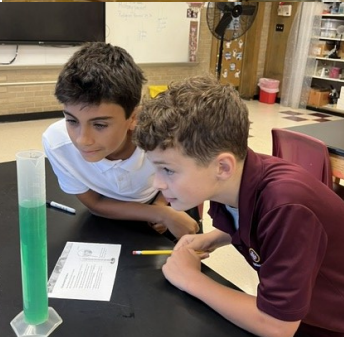
On Patriot Day, our students, staff, and teachers gathered together for a beautiful prayer service honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11, and to honor the heroes who risk their lives for us each day.

Service and Stewardship is the heart of who we are at Saint Charles. We have already begun our Blanket Drive which we are collecting blankets for Warmed by Grace. As a school we celebrated Dolly Day on 9/25: We collected donations for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and a Bear Project for children fighting cancer, a charity started by one of our own students at Saint Charles School. For Priesthood Sunday: Students made cards for our priests to show our appreciation for all they do for us. We will continue to complete stewardship projects throughout the year.

Finally, our Student Council welcomed our teachers back with a special lunch and gifted each teacher money to use in their classrooms. We are so grateful for everything our teachers do for our school. Saint Charles is off to a great start and we look forward to a wonderful school year ahead.

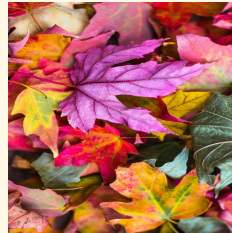


St. Charles School—cont.



Holy Family School

Holy Family School is off to a great start! Our teachers have started the year off with many blessings. Teachers and students are excited to share in a school community with the motto "We Can Do All Things Through Christ." This is how we center our day! We are thrilled to welcome new staff; Mrs. Heather Vicola for Art, Mrs. Diane Palardy for Spanish, Mrs. Olmi has entered a new role in Kindergarten. The new additions to Holy Family have blessed us. Students in grade 8 have been working on STEM activities of building bridges. Grade 4 is studying fossils! Each grade in this school is working hard with rigor! We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, memories, and friendship!



St. Christine School

The 2026-2027 school year is off to a great start at St. Christine School! This year we welcomed two new teachers to our building: Mrs. Alba Socciarelli and Mr. Steven Hiner. We are so happy to have them join the Crusader family. Our year kicked off with Meet the Teacher, then students returned to classes ready for new opportunities and challenges.

Our volleyball, 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 9, 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 jr. high sculpture art show which was a highlight of the day. Special thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Houser and her committee for once again organizing a wonderful day for our Grandparents.

The 8th grade students and their 1st grade buddies enjoyed a field trip to the pumpkin farm, as did the 7th grade classes and their Kinderbuddies.

Our Home and School Association is planning a Purse Bingo Fundraiser for November 7, that will fund many of our upcoming field trips and school celebrations. With our Halloween parties and parade scheduled for October 30, we know the joy, preparation and busyness of the holiday season is not far away.



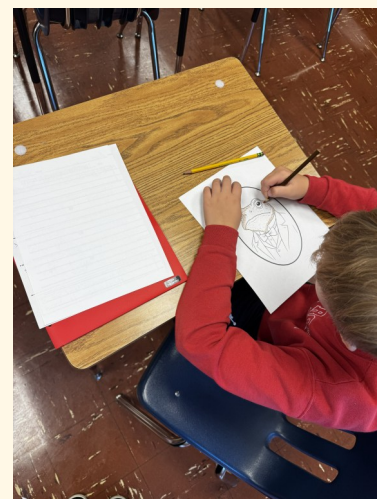
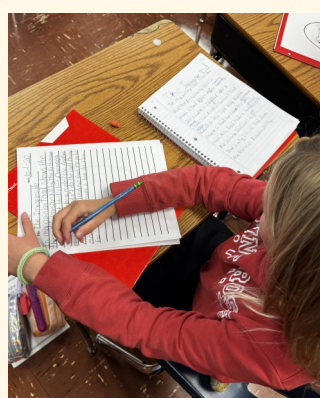
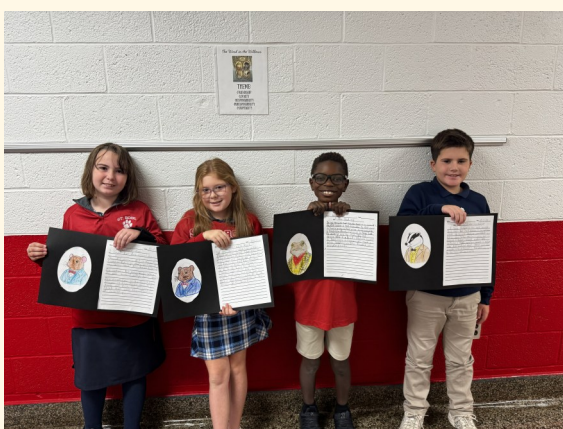
St. Rose School

St. Rose School has been so blessed to start another school year strong. We welcome back our former principal Linda Borton as she stepped in to be our interim principal for the school year. We are lucky to have her. We also welcome new teacher Sam Frush to teach science to our 6th and 7th graders.

Our school year started with a whole school Mass to celebrate the feast day of St. Rose. Our students learned about the caring loving nature of our patron Saint.

Throughout all grades, September activities included Johnny Appleseed Day, science exploration, interviews with authors, starting school wide service projects and continuing our Virtues in Practice program. Second grade students joined Scholastic's Live Storyvoice with author Joanna Ho and illustrator Amber Ren of the book, *Becoming Boba*. Students listened to a read-aloud, answered questions, and participated in a live guided drawing. Students then brought the story's message to life as they designed their own boba tea and used positive adjectives to describe their classmates, placing their words inside the "boba bubbles." This simple activity encouraged kindness, empathy, and recognizing the goodness in others. It also beautifully reflected our faith, showing that each person is uniquely created and worthy of being seen, valued, and celebrated.

The third-grade students have been studying the different themes in the classic tale *The Wind in the Willows*. At the conclusion of the unit, students chose a character and a theme that the character demonstrates. They then wrote an opinion piece explaining which character they believe best demonstrates one of the four themes: friendship, responsibility, irresponsibility, or hospitality.



News From the Front

St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School and High School was pleased to welcome Bishop Bonnar for the annual Members Board Meeting! During his visit, Bishop Bonnar received a special STA pumpkin as a token of appreciation. Pictured from right to left are Alondra Cedillo, Bridget Robertson, and Landon Stanek.

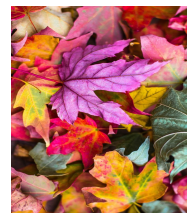
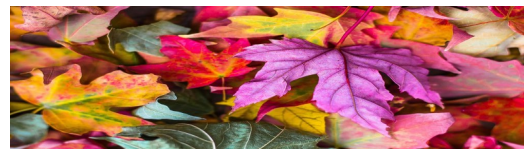
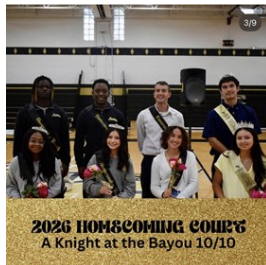
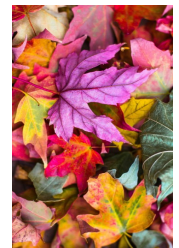
St. Thomas Aquinas High School

It has been a great start to the school year at St. Thomas Aquinas! We kicked off the year with our Senior Sunrise, an STA tradition that gave our seniors a chance to come together and celebrate the start of their final year as Knights.

This year, we are also happy to welcome Mia Powell to our high school faculty. Mrs. Powell joins our Math Department, and we are excited to have her as part of the STA family.

Homecoming season is always an exciting time at STA! The Junior and Senior classes recently faced off in our annual Powder Puff game, with the Juniors defeating the Seniors. Our Homecoming celebration will take place on October 10. Congratulations to our 2026 Homecoming King, Fernando Cruz, and Queen, Alondra Cedillo!

The fun continues later this month with Trick or Treat at STA on October 25 from 3:00 –5:00 p.m. We invite our families and community to join us for an afternoon of Halloween fun.



News From the Front

HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

Cardinal Mooney High School

Congratulations to senior Tyler Guerrieri for qualifying to the OHSA D II State Golf Tournament.

The Cardinal Mooney family is mourning the loss of freshman Luke Durst. Friends, teachers, family and teammates lined the hallways of Rainbow in Cleveland on Tuesday, September 29th for a Hero Walk. Luke's organ donation saved six lives.



John F. Kennedy Upper Campus



News From the Front

Ursuline High School

Ursuline High School started its 121st year in August! We are also to welcome a new face to the Ursuline Family, Mr. Trent Wisser is our newest member of the English Department.



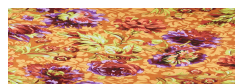
Math teacher Kristina Dugan and her husband David welcomed the arrival of their third child. Their daughter, Finnleigh, was born over the summer. Congratulations to Kristina and David, and to Finnleigh's older brothers, Baker and Cooper.

Another tradition, signing the Senior Rock, also took place at the start of the year. Seniors have started a countdown of their senior events for the year. So far they've checked off the Senior Picnic, the signing of the Senior Rock, and Homecoming have all been checked off the list. We wish our seniors a fantastic and memorable senior year!



The Ursuline Girls' Tennis Team sponsored their annual Claddagh Clash last month. The pickleball tournament benefits our team and the incredible work of the Ursuline Sisters Mission.

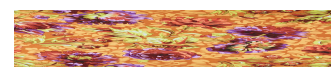
Congratulations to senior, Maria Meranto! She qualified for the OHSAA State Tennis Tournament representing Ursuline.



HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

We have again had an amazing year with AP scores, with 100% pass rates in AP 2D Art, AP Calculus AB and BC, AP Chemistry, AP Drawing, AP French, AP Physics, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Seminar, and AP Research.

We held our traditional Freshmen Olympics recently. Students are now placed in teams based on their House. Congratulations to St. Columba House for winning the top prize for the day!



Best of luck to Maria Meranto, Natalia Choufani, Kate Miller, and Grace Reichard. These ladies all qualified for districts in tennis! Maria Meranto is also the Sectional Champ! Go Irish Tennis!

In Cross Country, Addison Ring has been a top 5 finisher in almost every event this year!

We would like to recognize Ursuline's own Paulina Montaldo. Senora Montaldo, a Spanish and journalism teacher at Ursuline, has received the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award from the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. Paulina is also the founder of Somos Youngstown, a Spanish-language digital media program and YouTube show created to highlight the stories, culture, and contributions of the Hispanic community across the Mahoning Valley and Northeast Ohio. Paulina is one of 10 honorees in the state and the only one from the Youngstown area.



News From the Front

HIGH SCHOOLS—continued

Central Catholic High School

CCHS is off to a good start for this year! We welcomed new classroom teachers, Kendall Compton, Science, Tatiana, Science, and Jacob Faehnle, Theology and Christian Campbell, Intervention Specialist. 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 sports are finishing their seasons.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year!

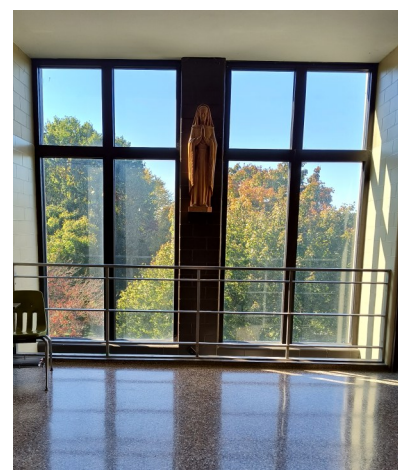


Our seniors volunteered to help local veterans at the Maps Air Museum. The day was sponsored by our area SAM (Serving Area Military) Center.



On our recent underclassmen Day of Service a group of our students helped out at the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank

Camp Wanake in Brewster has been our destination for Senior Retreat for the past 28 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**

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St. Rose School

Sara Reece
St. James School

Staci Raab
Ursuline High School

Nicole Pontuti
Holy Family School

Jennifer DeMain
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Jennifer Policy
Cardinal Mooney High School

Michele Vargo
St. Christine School

Christine Neider
St. Nicholas School

Jillian Olihan
Central Catholic High School

Diane Oswald
John F. Kennedy Lower/Middle School

Katy Welch-Young
John F. Kennedy High School

Ryan Murgatroyd
St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

Jodi Stroia
St. Thomas Aquinas High School