

**Summer**

**2023**



**ESTABLISHED 1968**

# **Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers**

## *President's Message*

**Another school year has just about come to completion! We are grateful for the opportunities that we have and for the many people who enable our Catholic Schools to foster and grow.**

**Pope Francis put forth this challenge in his address to the U.S. Congress in September 2015: "Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples." This certainly is a challenge that applies to us in our own attempts to promote Gospel values in all that we do.**

**May we continue in these efforts with hope and perseverance.**

**Have a great summer!**



# News From the Front

## Elementary Schools

### Holy Family School

Holy family has been busy and will continue to be so until the end of the year!



All classes had Junior Achievement, and parents were kind enough to volunteer for these activities. This pic is 4th grade JA.



Six of our eighth graders attended the Chrism Mass on April 4.



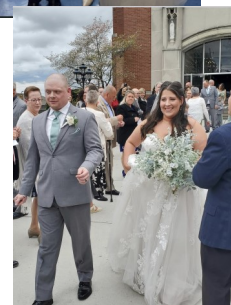
Our track team has been working very hard! Eighth graders received their Confirmation on April 20. Upcoming events include First Communion (April 30), Washington DC for Eighth graders (April 26-28), Law Day at the Mahoning County Courthouse (May 2), May Crowning (May 5), Academic Awards Banquet (May 17), Field Day for grades K-7 and Retreat for grade 8 (May 31), and graduation (June 1). Have a great summer everyone!

### St. Nicholas School

There are a lot of exciting things going on at St. Nicholas School.

Eighth graders did an amazing job presenting "The Mime", sharing Jesus' journey. Sixth graders have been busy in their 3D printing class with Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Angeloff. They made shoelace tie practice shoes for the kindergarteners to practice learning how to tie their shoes. Kindergarteners have also been busy learning all about plants and even had the chance to plant their own seeds. Students have been busy with spring testing and third grade celebrated the end of testing with ice cream sundaes and playing board games.

We would like to congratulate two of our second graders, Alex and Leila who celebrated their First Holy Communion. May God continue to bless them as they grow a closer relationship with Jesus. We would also like to congratulate Miss Drennen, our fourth grade teacher who got married. We wish our eighth graders the best of luck in high school. We hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer.





## St. Charles School

This year Saint Charles School welcomed Monsignor Zuraw as our new Pastor and Rev. Matthew Humerickhouse as the Associate Pastor. During Catholic Schools Week the BScott Basketball Academy spent a day conducting mini camps for some of the students in kindergarten through 4th grade. Grades 5 - 8 went bowling and Jungle Terry made a stop at Saint Charles to visit the younger children with his jungle friends. Catholic School's Week was a great week filled with many fun activities and a week to reflect on all the many wonderful qualities of our school.

Our kindergartners loved making new friends, playing and learning together. They especially loved being with their 7th grade buddies. They enjoyed making applesauce on Johnny Appleseed Day and celebrating the 100th day of school with many fun activities. Our kindergarten students fill the hall with such joy.

Our first graders learned to read. Each night the students use Raz Kids and read to their teachers. Our teachers love listening to their students read. They also learned their math facts and practiced daily working in math centers. The first grade also learned about baptism and reenacted Baptism using baby dolls. The Kindness Café in room 113 was open all year – they even hosted a hot chocolate party for all the teachers and staff on a cold January day. The first graders always promote kindness each day to one another. The first graders learned about the life cycle of lady bugs, took care of them and then released them into nature.

Our second grade students are always busy doing fun-filled learning centers and experiments in their classes. They also participated in the Wax Museum where they researched a famous person. Most importantly, it was a sacramental year for them. Making their First Reconciliation and their First Holy Communion brought them closer to Jesus.

The third graders had a wonderful year learning math and reading a novel. They enjoyed many hands-on learning experiments each week in their science class. The third graders had a culture day that taught them all to appreciate the many different cultures in our world. They researched a culture, wrote a report and then brought in a food that represented their culture. Also, this year many of our third graders began to sing in the choir, sharing their musical gift with all of us during our school liturgies.

The fourth graders learned how to become organized and how to study for tests. They read several novels during the year. They conducted many experiments and STEM projects in our science stem room. One project included students making Macy Day Parade Floats, and making Christmas decorations from recycled materials. They also began playing the recorder in music class. This was the first year that the 4th grade students participated in the Challenge 24 Competition.

Our fifth graders traveled to Camp Fitch together in September. It was a great experience filled with so many packed fun days. They studied reptiles and amphibians; they participated in a Lake Erie study. They learned to live like pioneers and made their own butter. They also learned how to live like a Native American on the shore of Lake Erie. Most importantly, our 5th graders celebrated Autism Awareness Month by wearing their shirts in honor of our fabulous Rich Center Program. Our students show such compassion and are genuine friends to all our Rich Center friends.

Our sixth graders enjoyed learning new concepts in school and switching classes with 5 teachers. They enjoyed





## St. Charles School (cont.)

experiments in science class and loved writing for various contests throughout the year. The 6th grade visited both high schools on separate occasions enjoying both schools.

The seventh grade students visited Ursuline and Mooney on two separate field trips as well. They also enjoy their friendships with our kindergarten students and enjoy working with them monthly. Our 7th graders did a beautiful job presenting the Washing of the Feet and the Last Supper to our student body on Holy Thursday.

Our 8th graders are anxiously awaiting their new chapter next year in high school. However, in the meantime, our 8th graders have enjoyed a year filled with many exciting activities including their trip to Gettysburg. On this trip, they visited the Pittsburgh Zoo, Pirate Stadium, the Flight 93 Memorial and the Battle of Gettysburg. Students also created science fair projects and dressed as Saints at our All Saints Day mass. The 8th graders also presented and acted out the living Stations of the Cross to our students and parents during Lent.

The kindergarten through 8th grade had many opportunities to participate in different sporting events such as soccer, cross country, football, basketball, track, and cheerleading. Our students represented us well at this year's different competitions like Math Counts, Challenge 24, and English Festival winning many awards. All students enjoyed the Day of the Young Reader in November. Students were involved in many activities that promoted literacy throughout the day. It was a day that we were thankful for the gift of reading. Student Council sponsored a Choose Your Charity Volleyball Tournament for our junior high students which raised money for Akron Children's Hospital and Saint Jude's. Most importantly, all of our students participated in many service projects such as donating to Martha's Cupboard, making cards for Veterans, placemats/crafts for Nursing Home residents, bringing Christmas gifts for children, creating cards and purchasing gifts for Project Bear.

Very Sadly, one of our third-grade students, Nora Sabella, died on April 30, 2023, from her five-year battle with pediatric cancer. With eyes that sparkled, sweet Nora touched each of us with her gentle spirit, beautiful smile, her strength and her courage. She made a difference in each of us here in school and to others outside in the community. Nora loved being in school, learning and playing with her friends. Her friends loved her so much. Because she has impacted us so deeply, Nora will always remain in our hearts and minds forever. We will all continue to pray for each other, but especially for her parents and her sister, Nina, who attends Saint Charles as well. May God bless her and all who love Nora..... May she rest in peace, Amen.





## Elementary Schools continued

### JFK Lower

It is hard to believe that we are in the final month of this school year. It has been very busy!! Congratulations to all of the Second Graders making their First Holy Communion. We are all very happy that Map testing has been completed! There are a few memories still to be made including Second Graders making their First Holy Communion, many field trips are scheduled for May, Step-Up day to visit the teacher for next school year, and everyone looking forward to the annual Fun Day!! We wished Father Cicero "Happy Birthday". Our deepest sympathy for Mrs. Dana Roscoe and her family for the loss of her beloved Father. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time. Congratulations to our Principal for winning "The Golden Apple Award" for a job well done! We love you!

We are looking forward to our time off for the summer! It has been a wonderful year!  
God Bless everyone!



### St. Christine School

St. Christine School has had an eventful Spring! Our Lenten journey was filled with opportunities for prayer, sacrifice and service, including collecting non-perishable staples for our local food pantry, and culminating in a beautiful Passion Play presented by our junior high students. In March, we celebrated Right to Read Week with a "Wild About Reading" theme and an activity-filled Family Literacy Night. In April, SCS was thrilled to be able to return to the stage with the performance of our spring musical, School House Rock LIVE Jr. with 70 of our 4th-8th grade students participating in the cast and crew. Bravo!! Our Crusader soccer and track teams are strengthening their athletic skills and enjoying their practices and games/meets. The Eighth graders traveled to Cincinnati this year for their 8th Grade Trip. The outstanding Home and School Association treated our teachers to something special each day of Teacher Appreciation Week. We wish congratulations and many blessings to our 2nd and 8th graders who recently received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. The faculty, staff and students of St. Christine are looking forward to a fun and relaxing summer, and we wish the same for our fellow schools!





## Elementary Schools continued

### St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

At STA middle, our kiddos went on two wonderful field trips!

6th grade went to Damascus camp for a faith and science retreat, where they explored connecting with Jesus and their fellow classmates.

7th & 8th grade went on a trip to Washington DC, where they will be putting their social studies knowledge to the test!





## Elementary Schools continued

### St. Rose School

We have been quite busy the second half of the year!

Some of our highlights have been our Father Daughter Dance, 3rd grade pen pals, History Day, Living Stations of the Cross, 8th grade trip, 6th & 7th grade trip, Confirmation, First Communion, Mother's Day Tea, Literacy Night and STEM night. We hope everyone has a great summer!





# News From the Front



## High Schools

### Cardinal Mooney High School

The end of a school year is always a time of reflection. A look ahead to new challenges and opportunities for the next school year and a bit of melancholy as we send seniors off to their next life path.

As we move into the end of year activities, we don't want them to overshadow the recent and current events which have been happening at CMHS.



The cast and crew of The Wizard of Oz gave spectacular performances over a 3 day period in early April. A thank you to all who participated to make this a successful event.

On April 20th, Career Exploration was the name of the day!! Over 55 guests joined the students for a day of learning about a wide range of career opportunities. Forty of these guests were CMHS alumni who enjoyed visiting and sharing information with the future alumni of our school.

The Diocese of Youngstown will hold the Eagle of the Cross ceremony this month and a big congratulations to Antonio D'Alesio and Maria Fire for being recognized for outstanding involvement in our school. Good luck to all who have prepared all year for the AP exams taking place in early May and of course a positive end of year to all and a safe time for all as they participate in the senior and end of school years activities.

Remember to set aside time for reflection!!

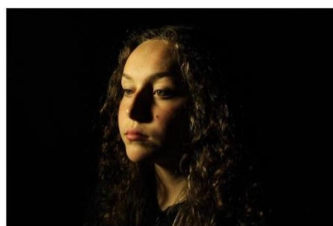


### OHIO GOVERNOR'S YOUTH ART EXHIBITION

#### Congratulations

Cardinal Mooney High School Regional & State Winners

On display April 23 - May 18 James A. Rhodes State Tower



Marvelous Maggie by Mitchell Bogan



Light at the End of the Tunnel by Elijah Williams

Over 8,000 works were submitted and 253 were selected for State Honors

### Central Catholic High School

As we get close to concluding another year we are grateful for all that we have been able to do this year! Our sympathy and prayers go out to Theology teacher John Weeks, on the death of his father-in-law and to cafeteria supervisor, Teresa Smith, on the death of her son. We wish all the best to Theology teacher Mark Moorhead who is leaving this year and we are grateful for the time he has been here. Seniors are experiencing their end of the year special times and we wish them well in their future!



Seniors pose in World Religions class on their last day, sporting the tie dye shirts they made together



On their last day of classes seniors gathered in the gym to be together when their final bell rang.

Tower of Light Award Winner Allie Drlik poses with the class banner after the Baccalaureate Mass.







## High Schools continued

### Ursuline High School

This year has been an exciting one for the Ursuline Irish! In addition to John DeSantis '05 and his wife welcoming their new daughter, Mia, into the Ursuline Family in the fall, three other faculty members have had their own new additions! Congratulations to Carey '05 and Tiffany Palermo '02 on the birth of their daughter, Viviana. We would also like to congratulate Marco Fiorante and his wife, Gina, on the arrival of their new baby girl, Viola. On a sad note, we are heartbroken by the passing of Ursuline legend, Mr. John Ulicney '54, in March. John taught biology at Ursuline for 46 years. The biology room in the science wing is dedicated to him in honor of his years of service and dedication to the school. Even after retirement, John was often at Ursuline visiting or attending an event to support his grandchildren in their activities at UHS.



*Mrs. Cindy Lacko*  
9th Grade Religion Teacher

Mrs. Lacko is pictured with Jennifer Fischer, Director of Curriculum & Instruction for the Office of Catholic Schools, and UHS Principal, Matthew Sammartino.

### St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Into the home stretch and the end of the school year is near. I hope everyone has had a successful year at your schools with all the spiritual, academic and extracurricular activities. It is amazing to see all the talent our students possess as they progress throughout the year.

One of the successful activities, again this year for STA, was our annual Easter Egg Hunt that we held on Palm Sunday. This event is run by our NHS students. They were able to fill over 2500 eggs with candy, prizes and vouchers from a nearby restaurant. These eggs were placed all over our practice field. We had approximately fifty participants ranging from Pre-K to second graders. Thankfully the weather held out and everyone had a good time.

Good luck with everyone's end of the year ceremonies. I am sure the graduating seniors are itching to move on to their next adventure as we anticipate the next incoming class and the gifts they have to offer our schools.







## *Our Most Recent Retirees*

**We want to thank the teacher from the YDCT Executive Board who is retiring this year!  
We are so grateful for the many years and all the commitment he has given to us  
and to our schools!**

### **Joe Vagedes from St. Thomas Aquinas High School**

Joe started at STA in the fall of 1981 and stayed for 42 years. The first 22 were as a teacher, the next 13 as an administrator (one as dean and 12 as principal) and the last seven as a teacher. He taught the subjects of Biology, Honors Biology, AP Biology, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, Freshman Science, Honors Freshman Science and Honors Senior Science Seminar. He has been the department chairperson, NHS advisor, coach in football and track, church liaison, co-coordinator for the football parochial league with Lowell Klinefelter, and Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers building representative. Joe was awarded the Golden Apple as a principal. His three children are graduates of STA ('05, '09, '13) and two were awarded the Eagle of the Cross.

Congratulations Joe!



## Delta Dental Requirements for Dependents

In order for a child age 19-25 to be eligible for coverage, we must document that all three of the following conditions are being met annually. Your child must be:

- A full-time student in post-secondary education
- Single (not married)
- Claimed by you as a dependent on your Federal Income Tax return.

At age 25, the coverage for qualifying students will end at the end of the calendar year in which your child turns 25.







## Youngstown Diocesan Confederation of Teachers Scholarships

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**We are so happy to be able to offer scholarships to children of YDCT members who are in our diocesan schools!**

**This year's winners of the High School Senior College Scholarships are:**

*Kelly Peplowski (Ursuline High School)*

*Suzanna Codispoti (Central Catholic High School)*

**This year's winners of the Junior High Scholarships are:**

*Brendan Markey (Holy Family School)*

*Daniel Patrick Reardon (St. Rose School)*

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**Congratulations to these winners of our freshman scholarships:**

**CMHS**

Johnathan Brenner  
Hannah English  
Abigail Markey

**UHS**

Madeleine Devlin  
Izabella Krekus  
Alessandra Matteo

**CCHS**

Lillian Bentzel  
Kolton Osborne  
Marie Weller

**STA**

Kendra Ford  
Rylan Sullivan  
Kate Tabellion

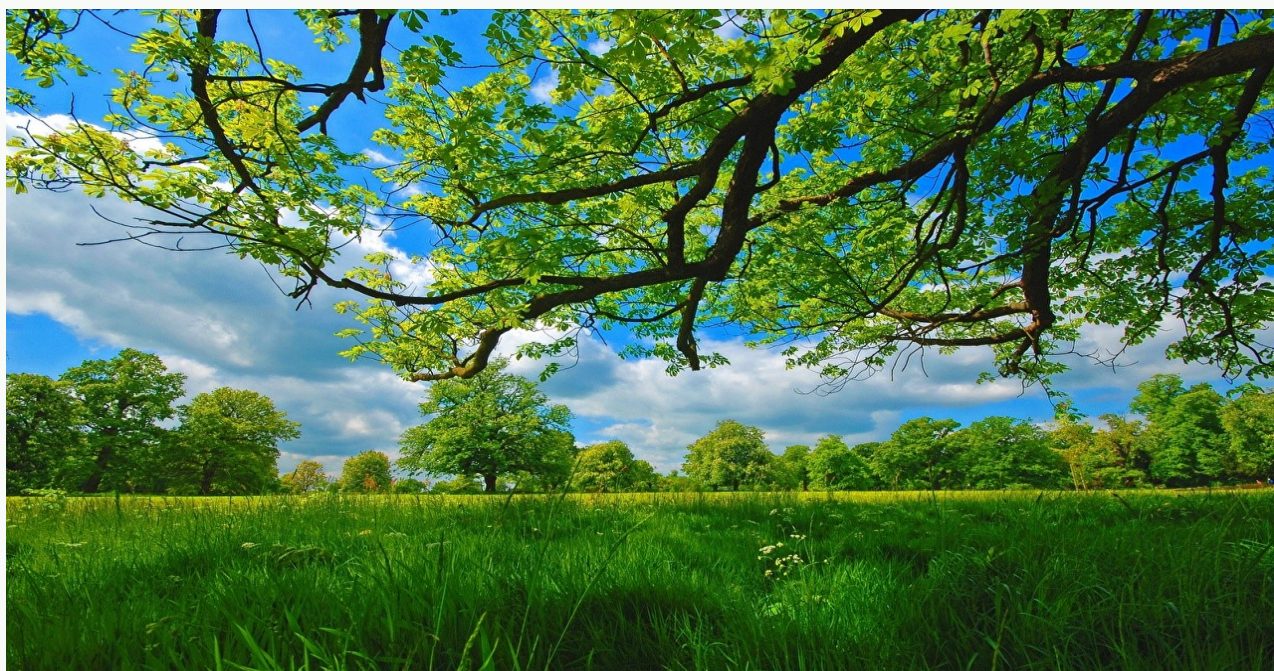
**JFK Upper**

TBA



You can find all future editions of the newsletter  
and the contracts  
on this website:  
[www.ydct.us](http://www.ydct.us)





## YDCT Executive Board

### **OFFICERS**

**Chuck Lozier - President**  
Central Catholic High School

**John Peplowski - Vice President, HS**  
Ursuline High School

**Karen Joseph - Vice President,**  
Elementary

**Mary Ann Morrison - Treasurer**  
Central Catholic High School

**Maria Dick - Secretary**  
Central Catholic High School

### **BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES**

**Gina Heeter**  
St. Nicholas School

**Caroline Mulhall**  
Holy Family School

**Michele Vargo**  
St. Christine School

**Diane Oswald**  
John F. Kennedy

**Courtney Fletcher**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School

**Sara Reece**  
St. James School

**Kathleen Schneider**  
St. Charles School

**Annmarie Pesa**  
St. Rose School

**Jackie Prologo**

**Staci Raab**  
Ursuline High School

**Sharon Bettura**  
Cardinal Mooney High School

**Katy Welch-Young**  
John F. Kennedy High School

**Joseph Vagedes**  
St. Thomas Aquinas High School

**Dana Perretta**  
Central Catholic High School

### **OFFICE MANAGER**

**Jackie Prologo**

*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)*