

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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From the desk of the Assistant Superintendent

A LETTER FROM SHAILEEN RIGINOS

As we enter the last quarter of the school year, we are proud to present the second edition of the Diocesan School Advisory Council (DSAC) newsletter. Through this newsletter, we hope to keep all stakeholders informed of the progress made on our strategic plan by the collaborative work of the council, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), and our School Leadership Team.

Our Catholic Identity Committee continues to build engaged missionary discipleship. Taking to heart the call to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19), our schools have responded to the challenge of sharing the Gospel of salvation through word and loving action. A Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce convened to begin working on a three-year plan to “Open Wide Our Hearts,” responding to the call from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops so all individuals experience a sense of belonging in our schools. The CSO is grateful for the opportunity we’ve had to visit with pastors over the past few months to share about our schools and collaborate on continuous improvement.

In the area of academics, our teachers have focused on analyzing student performance data to implement instruction that makes positive impacts on student learning. Our students continue to outscore their peers in the state and nation on standardized tests in reading and math. And this summer, teachers and principals will come together to continue updating curriculum, focusing on social studies and technology.

Catholic schools in South Carolina are strong and viable through the work of our school leaders. Like the DSAC Strategic Plan, each school has made incredible progress on their local plans. A new enrollment management objective was piloted — as we look to the future and anticipate continuous growth in our schools — to strengthen the retention of current students and research strategies to recruit students seeking an academically robust Catholic education. Collaboration on teacher retention is ongoing and a priority of our work.

My sincere thanks to DSAC, our pastors, school leaders, teachers, staff and families, for their work and commitment to our mission. Together we are “Ignited by Faith — United in Learning,” preparing for the future mind, body and soul.

God bless you all,

Shaileen Riginos
Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023



On Jan. 30, the Diocese of Charleston schools kicked off Catholic Schools Week 2023 by celebrating mass with Bishop Jacques Fabre- Jeune, CS, at the Chapel of the Holy Family in Charleston. Our schools across the state participated via live stream, with St. Peter (Beaufort), St. Anne (Rock Hill), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Myrtle Beach), John Paul II High School (Hilton Head Island), and St. John (Charleston) attending in person.



TEACHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A virtual success!

Teachers from across the Diocese of Charleston participated in a virtual conference March 3. The day began with Mass celebrated locally at each school, followed by viewing a video message and prayer from Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, and a welcome address from Superintendent William Ryan. The recording also included students from our schools — St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken, St. Anthony in Florence and St. Andrew in Myrtle Beach — who led prayer, shared good news about their

schools and celebrated faith through music. Afterwards, Father Jeffery Kirby, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Lancaster, gave a keynote speech. Teachers participated in over 65 virtual sessions on a variety of topics such as catechesis, STEM, developing an aerospace program, writer's workshop, the science of reading, phonics, faculty book studies, English as a new language (ENL), faculty round tables, classroom management, Christian meditation through our faith and much more!

HOLOCOST SURVIVOR SPEAKS TO BE STUDENTS

Bishop England High School was honored to have Harry Schneider as a guest speaker for students. Mr. Schneider was a young boy during World War II when Nazi Germany was on a mission to eradicate the world's Jewish population.

Schneider was born to Jewish parents in Lomazy, Poland, shortly after the Holocaust began, and his family joined many others by hiding in the woods to avoid being sent to a concentration camp.

After the war, his family spent four years in several displaced persons camps in Austria before President Harry S. Truman allowed 100,000 displaced Jewish people into the United States. Schneider dedicated his life to sharing the story of his family and how they survived.

The survivor's presentation included a short video about his life, focusing on the family's Holocaust experience.



Students were moved by Schneider's humbleness and strength, and asked questions about his experience. We are so grateful for Schneider's time and sharing his story. A special thanks to Josie Oakley, BE social studies teacher, for arranging this opportunity.



GOOD NEWS



from Holy Trinity School NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

Holy Trinity School had great growth in academic and sports programs this year, and students are reaping the rewards.

On the academic side, the school instituted a new program for the gifted and talented students — the Catholic Café, inspired by St. John in Charleston. Under the direction of Cristina Carman, director of academic programs, students operate their own small business, an in-house coffee shop. Students take orders, calculate supplies and costs, generate receipts, write thank you notes, and personally deliver coffee and treats throughout the school. So far, they have been self-sustaining and even made a small profit. The students gain experience running a small business.

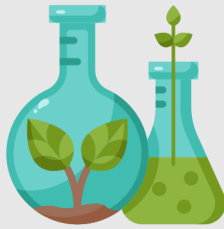
This school year, Holy Trinity added four new sports: cross country, basketball, golf and baton, under the guidance of Athletic Director Jackie Rand. The cheer squad increased from six to 16 members and has been making appearances at local 5K races and marathons. Holy Trinity plans to add volleyball, soccer and archery next year.

School administration looks forward to continued growth in both fields plus increasing other programs like special education and preschool.

God is good — all the time!

—
*“... students
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coffee shop.”*
—

STEM TO STREAM



at St. Gregory the Great School
BLUFFTON

St. Gregory the Great School is a Pre-K to sixth grade STEM certified elementary school serving 190 students in the heart of the Lowcountry. Our dedicated teachers cultivate learning environments that are creative, collaborative and project-based to further the mission of the Church.

SGG expanded its STEM program into STREAM — science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math. This shift allows the school to fully integrate the arts and faith into all learning. Some exciting examples of STREAM at work include:

- a day with art leaders to hear about careers as architects, sound and stage designers, textile creators, an extreme sports clothing-line creator, and in toy design.
- the spring musical “Ancient River Valley Civilization” infused English language arts, math, drama and social studies in the program.
- science students designed life-sized renderings of the human skeletal system, explored cell biology, created microscope slides, and dissected owl pellets to research and understand the eating habits of these nighttime predators.

The STREAM philosophy allows students to integrate learning using cross-curricular skills to help understand the amazing world God has created for us.



STREAM

- *Science*
- *Technology*
- *Religion*
- *Engineering*
- *Art*



KUDOS CORNER



PRINCE OF PEACE SCHOOL IS EXPANDING

After two years of planning, Prince of Peace School in Taylors is adding a K3 program for fall 2023-24, bringing back a program that was retired over 10 years ago. This launch reflects the combination of a growing parish and effective marketing.

LOWCOUNTRY SCHOOLS COLLABORATE FOR GOOD CAUSE

Eight schools in the coastal region joined in support of one cause — Walk for Water. Bishop England, Blessed Sacrament, Charleston Catholic, Christ Our King-Stella Maris, Divine Redeemer, Nativity, St. John and Summerville Catholic worked together to raise money for the event, sponsored by Water Mission, which helps bring clean water to people around the world. Schools raised money with unique projects, such as a “Cutest Pet Contest,” tag days, Mass tithing and mini walks, then pooled the money as a single team, called Walking By Faith. The collaboration exceeded their \$2K goal, raising \$2,770. Check out walkforwater.rallybound.org/walkforwater/CatholicSchoolsUnited.

BISHP ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES SENIOR ATHLETES SIGNED TO PLAY IN COLLEGE

Bishop England's parents, coaches and classmates celebrated the nine senior athletes who signed National Letters of Intent to play their sport in college.

THE STUDENT ATHLETES ARE:

Adelaide Coyle – softball at Erskine

Asher Wester- baseball at USC-Beaufort

Charlie Ranney – football at Bates College

Lindsay Burbage – swimming at UMass.

Maggie Long – track and field at Anderson U.

Matthew Picard- swimming at VMI

Sophia Savage – rowing at Fairfield U.

Tommy DiLiegro – football at Wofford College

William Poole – football at Gardner Webb