



Lumen Christi



December 2012

From the Superintendent's Desk

Mr. Henry Fortier

*Secretary for Faith Formation/
Superintendent of Catholic Schools*



We have entered into Advent, the season of waiting. What are you waiting for? School to let out for break? A special gift? A bigger raise? Advent is a special time of year that we set aside to recognize in the Incarnation – God taking on human form in Jesus. Advent is a time for each of us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. It is a time to pray more, reflect harder on our journey and its direction, and take extra time to clear out those things that clutter our minds and hearts – the clutter that leaves no room at the modern day Inn of your heart. The no vacancy sign Mary and Joseph experienced was literal then, but still holds meaning for us today. Your life is so full right now with grades, final assessments before break, Christmas programs, excited students waiting for break, your own personal preparations for the holidays, and much more. It is so easy to run this Thanksgiving-to-Christmas marathon and on Christmas day open a bunch of gifts, eat a big meal, and exhale because it's finally over and now you can rest. Sometimes, after the gifts and food on Christmas day, it may even feel anticlimactic because everything comes to an abrupt end. All the music stops and the lights come down. If these have been your

experiences in the past, it's because there is still no room at the Inn for the Christ child to be born. Advent is a sacred time and a special time that has been pushed into the background because of consumerism. Christmas lights just look prettier than a few purple candles. However, it's only through the preparation of Advent that we can make room in our hearts for the birth of Christ. It is critical that we model this and teach it to our students. The lessons they are learning from the Toys R' Us commercials show them the wrong way. It fills their minds and hearts with clutter and distracts them from the true meaning of Advent. If we prepare ourselves during this Advent season, then Christmas Day is so much more than a gift or too many calories we don't need. It is a time of intimacy where God comes alive in us. Jesus was born once and we are now His hands and feet to do His work. If we do not prepare a place for Him in our hearts to be born in new ways to us, then how can we be His hands and feet? Advent and Christmas should never get routine or too familiar because there will always be new ways for Christ to enter our lives and deepen the intimate relationship God is calling each of us to on this journey of life.





Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent

The reviews are in and the second round of the Regional Professional Development Days was a major success! The feedback clearly indicated that the time spent collaborating with colleagues to brainstorm, plan and create was energizing and exciting. It was amazing to see teachers across the Diocese engaged in the creative process that makes teaching so rewarding - no textbook can provide what our teachers can do!!!! I am very anxious to see the implementation of the units created!

Several teachers asked if there was one key learning activity - separate from the unit created during the Regional Days - that could be easily initiated to support the transition to the English Language Arts standards across content areas. YES, THERE IS!!

For the primary grades (PK-2): Consider wrapping up your week with the following writing assignment. In graphic organizer format, have your students represent (with support as needed) what the students learned during the week. Then, have them write (with support as needed) a letter to their parents explaining what was learned. The graphic organizer supports critical organization skills as a pre-writing activity. Be sure to ask the parents to respond in writing to that letter. (The parent letter could also be a letter to the principal, pastor, etc.) That letter from the parent provides an authentic opportunity for additional "close reading" and does "double-duty" as a means of letting your parents know what is happening in the classroom!

For grades 3-12: Consider adding 1-2 pieces of non-fiction reading per quarter for the rest of the year. The close reading selection should be at the "stretch" Lexile level. Attached is a [guide](#) to leading your students through the close reading process. The reading options are endless across all curriculum content areas. For example, in history, consider the range of primary sources documents such as speeches, letters and government documents. For math and science, selections can be found in journal articles and scientific reports. Literary and artistic reviews are an opportunity to guide students through a close read of non-fiction text. Even P.E. can make use of health and nutrition journals! To determine whether your selection is at the appropriate "stretch" Lexile Level, go to: www.Lexile.com.

Both of the above strategies move students toward reading comprehension at the higher level of rigor expected by the common core and provide an opportunity to bring a learning activity into your classroom that is relevant and supports what you are teaching. If you use one of these strategies, please let us know how it worked! And, please, share your reading selection!!

Mr. James Cooney
Associate
Superintendent



Jim & Joe's Accreditation Corner



Dr. Joseph Belinski
Director of School
Planning

Our schools that were scheduled for on-site visits by the Florida Catholic Conference and AdvancEd during the first semester have successfully completed that phase of the accreditation process. During October and November 2012, the Church of the Resurrection Catholic School (Lakeland), Morning Star Catholic School (Orlando), St. John Vianney Catholic School (Orlando), St. Joseph Catholic School (Winter Haven), and Central Catholic High School (Melbourne) hosted visits by accreditation teams. All of us offer congratulations to these schools for successfully completing the Visitation Phase of the accreditation process.

We want to thank the Visitation Teams for taking time out of their busy schedules to serve as Visiting Team members. Accreditation is about ensuring that schools demonstrate a high level of quality with regard to Catholic identity, academic excellence, quality instruction, supportive student services, visionary leadership, and continuous improvement. Therefore, the Visitation is an event within the accreditation process when a school shows evidence to an objective team from outside the Diocese that it meets the expected standards of the accreditation agency. The team members share their professional expertise during the three day visits. In addition, the team members return with good examples to take back and share with their schools and/diocese. We appreciate their generosity of time and talent in supporting the schools in the Diocese of Orlando.

We also want to thank the local school administrators, steering committees, faculties, pastors, and presidents who have worked over a fifteen month period preparing for the accreditation visits. It takes time and talent to gather and analyze information, distribute and review surveys, and create goals based upon data. This data becomes the foundation for an action plan, which guides the school forward toward continuous improvement.

Most importantly, we want to recognize the main stakeholders, the students and parents, for their continuing support and commitment to our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



December Birthdays

Happy Birthday and may God
bless you with many more!

Dr. Kathleen Kiley, Principal, St. Andrew Catholic School

Mrs. Sandra Basinger, St. Mary Catholic School

Dr. Michael Coury, President, Fr. Lopez Catholic High
School





Creative Website for the Classroom



A very important skill for students to develop is using music in projects. Music and sound effects can take a good project to a whole new level. Teaching students how to include music in their projects allows teachers an opportunity to teach valuable digital citizenship skills they will need to find royalty free music. Importing songs from the iTunes library to a project is not accepted, only if the song is under Creative Common licensing, students can use it. If the students take that project and post it on YouTube or Vimeo containing copyrighted songs their accounts may be suspended. To help teachers and students, here are three great, easy to use, royalty free music and sound effect sites. In **Purple Planet Royalty Free Music** all the music is free to download and is composed and performed by Geoff Harvey and Chris Martyn. For more information go to <http://www.purple-planet.com/>. **SoundJay** is a site with a selection of MP3 and WAV files organized into ten genres. The sounds are free of charge and royalty free to use in projects but you are NOT allowed to post the sounds on any web site for others to download, link directly to individual sound files, or sell the sounds to anyone else. For more information go to <http://www.soundjay.com/>. Lastly, **Royalty Free Music Room** provides students with free downloadable MP3s that are public domain that can be used in book trailers, movies, and presentations and upload to YouTube without worrying about copyright infringement. For more information go to <http://www.royalty-free-music-room.com/>. Teachers have the important role to advocate, model, and teach safe, legal, and ethical use of digital

APP of the Month



Educreations is a free recordable interactive whiteboard that captures your voice and handwriting to produce amazing video lessons that you can share online. Students can replay your lessons in any web browser, or from within the iPad app. Teachers can create free accounts to post the lessons making them available to their students with a code. Also, videos can be posted on websites, blogs or email. Educreations allows teachers to explain a math formula, create an animated lesson, add commentary to photos, diagram a sports play, and many other. For more information you can visit <http://www.educreations.com/> and to download the app go to iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/educreations-interactive-whiteboard/id478617061?mt=8>

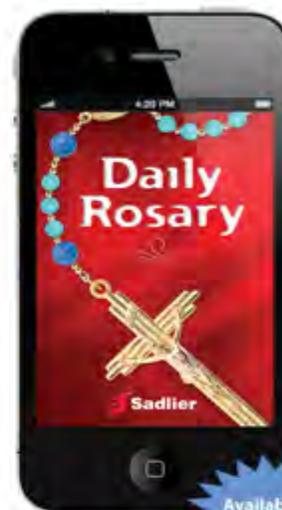


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Office of Catholic Schools Marketing & Development

Mr. Jon Arguello
Director of Marketing
and Development

Before I introduce myself, I would like to thank Bishop Noonan, Superintendent Fortier and the Diocese of Orlando for allowing me the opportunity practice my profession in service to the world's greatest cause and boss: Jesus Christ, who I thank most of all for the many blessings he has bestowed on me, including the opportunity here at the Diocese.

I am Jon Arguello, the new director of marketing and development, and it is a pleasure to join such a dedicated and talented group of educators and administrators. Most recently, I have served as the communications director, consultant and field strategist for several political campaigns. Prior to politics, I served as a strategist to companies and organizations wanting to capture a tangible market share from a competitor or who wanted to rotate or shift their business models to increase efficiency. Before that I served as a public affairs specialist in the United States Army, mostly with the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade in Italy and Afghanistan. And many, many *before thats* I was a young Catholic student at St. Andrew's in Orlando.

Of course that was not the last time I observed the enthusiasm and passion you have for educating our students, that was clear during the professional development conference and during my visits to some of your schools. If I have not yet, I will be visiting you soon to learn how best I can facilitate the marketing of our Catholic education system here in Central Florida.

Over the next several weeks I will be traveling throughout the Diocese learning what your priorities are and what makes each individual school an educational center of excellence. My goal is not to add to the already heavy workloads of administrators and teachers at the school. My intention will be to join you in your efforts; to help carry some of the load so that you can concentrate on running your schools—schools that are full of students. In the end *that* is my goal: to provide you with all the hearts, minds and souls your school can educate.

Catholic education is a product I believe in—it's a product that provides a value unmatched anywhere else. Many people think that the gap between Catholic and public education has closed. It has not. That is the great news I have for you. The gap between Catholic and public education has not closed, it is wider than ever, maybe not in the same manner it was 50 years ago, but Catholic education continues to provide families with the education and opportunity for spiritual development their children deserve. And my plan is to let the world know that.

God bless you all for what you do. I look forward to meeting you all and spending time discovering how best to keep our Catholic schools as vibrant, as relevant and as full as they have ever been.



Phyllis Mann
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent



Certification Corner

As we approach Advent, let your minds and hearts be open to the wonder of the coming of the Lord! I hope your holidays are a wonderful time for you and your family.

I would like to express how important Master Inservice Program (MIP) points are to your renewal process. Many teachers find themselves in the last month before certificate renewal without the required number of MIP points to renew. This is a terrible quandary with no time to fix.

The amount of MIP points needed to renew a certificate with one or two subject coverages is 120 points. If you hold more than two coverages, you must add 60 additional MIP points per coverage. Remember that you have the option to also use a college course (it does not have to be graduate level, just something that you haven't taken before completed within the validity period of your certificate) worth 3 semester hours (which is equivalent to 60 MIP points) in combination with other MIP points to satisfy the total requirement.

To use college credit, you must submit an official transcript of your course work to the FDOE. Be sure that your full social security number is on each page of the transcript or you run the risk of having the document received but not posted to your account.

You also can retake a subject area test (equivalent of 60 MIP points) and use the passing score in combination with either points or course work. You must take the test for a subject coverage that you have on your certificate (in cases of Elementary Education 1-6, the Elementary Education K-6 test is acceptable). If you have questions, please call me (407-246-4905).

Try to keep track of your own points or check in with your school MIP coordinator to see where you stand. You can always contact me for a status report. This is the time of year when you should check your status if you are renewing June 30, 2013. Give yourself some time to rectify the situation if you find that you are short MIP points.

FAITH NEWS ONLINE

Faith News Online is a special section of the Diocese of Orlando's website that features articles written by and about local Catholic youth. The articles and photos written by the Ace Reporters describe the people, places and events that are having an impact on the faith and education of our young people.

This week [Faith News Online](#) features a short article about students at Morning School "voting" for president.

The following schools will be contributing to Faith News Online through the 2012 – 2013 Ace Reporter program.

- Annunciation Catholic Academy, Altamonte Springs
- Basilica School of St. Paul, Daytona Beach
- Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando
- Holy Redeemer Catholic School, Kissimmee
- Morning Star School, Orlando
- Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Daytona Beach
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay
- St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School, Altamonte Springs
- St. Paul Catholic School, Leesburg

For more information about the Ace Reporter program and Faith News Online, contact Linda Caldwell, lcaldwell@orlandodiocese.org or 407-246-4924.

The Ace Reporter program through Faith News Online was launched in February, 2009 with twelve middle school and high school students representing nine schools. Faith News Online will include Fun Facts from the YOUCAT Catholic catechism, "Ask Father Faith" questions, surveys, Saint of the Month, and eventually space for prayers and reflections.

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ISAIAH 7:14

¹⁴ THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL. KJV



Mr. Henry Fortier
Secretariat for Faith
Formation/
Superintendent of
Catholic Schools



Mr. Jim Cooney
Associate Superintendent



Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan
Associate Superintendent



Mrs. Margie Aguilar
Director of Instructional
Technology



Mrs. Jacqueline Abrahams
Director of School Finance/
Government Programs



Dr. Joseph Belinski
Director of School Planning



Ms. Phyllis Mann
Administrative
Assistant to the
Superintendent



Mrs. Kathy Martin
Administrative Assistant
to the Associate
Superintendents



Mr. Jon Arguello
Director for Marketing and
Development



Mrs. Dawn Melcher
Regional Marketing
Director for Brevard and
Volusia Counties

May the peace and hope of Christ's birth be with you now and in the days ahead. With blessings from the Office of Catholic Schools.