

Catholic Schools Week 2026 Speaker Bios



Ms. Emily Godley

Emily Godley is a lifelong resident of Middletown and a graduate of Middletown North High School, Class of 2020. She began her higher education at Brookdale Community College, where she earned her associate degree, and later continued her studies at Stockton University.

In 2025, Emily enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserves. She completed Basic Military Training in December 2025 and subsequently graduated from Technical School. She is currently assigned to McGuire Air Force Base, where she serves with the Air Transportation Squadron.

Emily exemplifies dedication, service, and a strong commitment to excellence, making her a valued representative of our community.



Mr. Joe Autera

Mr. Autera is a former Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army, having served in the active and reserve components. During his military service he trained for, and took part in, a variety of missions involving explosives demolition, reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition.

Throughout the years since his active-duty service, he has served as a contractor to various government and private sector organizations with responsibility for planning, managing, and conducting a wide range of operations focused on detecting and interdicting threats in moderate and high-risk locales, including South and Central America, the Middle and Far East, as well as here in the U.S.

In 2003, he founded, and is currently the CEO, of Vehicle Dynamics Institute, where he oversees the design, development, and delivery, of highly advanced evasive driving and vehicle counter-ambush training for specialized military and law enforcement units, government agencies, and private sector security professionals.

Over the past four decades, his professional work has taken him to 56 countries on 6 continents and provided him a unique perspective on both serving this country and navigating challenges of the world around us.