

Curriculum Courier

The Curriculum Newsletter of the Catholic Schools Office in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



June, 2021 Volume 3, Issue 4



Sweet Summertime!

It's not just for kids!

by Laura Rolo, Director of Instruction and Professional Development

Oh sweet summertime! We know the joy it brings to the hearts of children, but it's no secret that teachers are pretty excited about summertime, too! In summers past, you may have planned your family fun times and trips, but also thrown in some reflection, a PD workshop or two, or some professional reading. This year, more teachers are saying "This summer is for my family and me." The need for taking a real break comes from the intensity of remote/hybrid learning and the tumultuous experiences of schooling during a pandemic. If you need to completely unplug in order to come back healthy, rested, and in the right frame of mind to lead in the classroom once again, Crystal Frommert shares four ways to focus on yourself this summer:

- 1. Read what brings you joy instead of educational research books: If you typically take home PD books to prepare for the next school year, swap these out for books you've always wanted to read.*
- 2. Seek out a new avenue for seasonal work instead of teaching summer camp or school: I have been teaching a math workshop to middle school students. Every. Single. Summer. While I love being with the kids and doing fun, creative math in a low-stakes setting, I can't risk the burnout. Not this summer. If you count on the income of a summer school program or camp, seek out seasonal employment in the retail or service industries. This might be the summer you focus on your side hustle.*
- 3. Develop a hobby instead of focusing on PD: My summer calendar would be filled with education conferences near and far. It was not unusual for me to spend a few days at my regional educational service center, attend a social and emotional learning conference in another state, or participate in an online seminar. While I gained so much as an educator networking and learning at these conferences, I am taking a pause this summer. You might want to try learning how to knit, paint, cook, woodwork, or skateboard.*
- 4. Look forward to your break instead of reflecting back on your school year: As an instructional coach, I am constantly singing the praises of a reflection practice. It's always valuable to consider what went well and what could be adjusted in your teaching practice. Try to apply your reflection practice to your summer instead. Imagine yourself in August as the summer is winding down. Do you imagine feeling refreshed? Renewed? How will you fill in the blank in this sentence? "I am so glad I did _____ for myself this summer." Keep a daily journal in a notebook...*

Read the rest of this article here: [4 Ways to Take a Real Break This Summer | Edutopia](#)

Listen to the voices of a few teachers as they share their experiences with their Neuhaus instructional coach as their guide and mentor through the implementation of Neuhaus' Basic Language Skills reading program:

“My coach has been a true inspiration to my success on my journey to becoming a Dyslexic Therapist. She has always responded to my S.O.S. emails and phone calls. I am so appreciative of her. She seems to always have just the right answers to calm me and let me know it is not as bad as I think it is. Anytime I am not sure if I am presenting a section of my lesson correctly, I know I can call or email her with questions and clarifications. She always responds promptly. I love her feedback on my video submissions. It is great to receive praise on my accomplishments and great ideas for how to improve my instruction and make my lessons fun for my students. Cassandra Prince

“Having a coach has been like having a personal cheerleader. The guidance I have received has been invaluable, as she has been a tremendous resource. Her encouragement and her believing in me have allowed me to feel more grounded and secure in my abilities. Any time I have questions about how to teach a specific skill, she guides me through the various ways to teach it. When I have had management situations, especially engaging my student online, she was there numerous times to brainstorm empathetically. I am so grateful to have this support.” Ruth Shammass

“Neuhaus Reading Program is fabulous and having a coach during the training process is extremely helpful. My coach is there for me whenever I need her. I just send her an email about a question I might have with my teaching, questions about the program, or if I need support, and I have a reply in no time. The one-on-one feedback I get from her regarding my demo lessons are priceless.” Tammy Jessen

If you have an opportunity to work with an Instructional Coach on your campus, take advantage of it! The support, communication, and guidance will pay off in making you a better teacher, and that results in better achievement for our students!



CSO Launches First Ed-Tech Professional Learning Day!

By Brandon France, Director of Educational Technology

The Catholic Schools Office invites you to be a part of our first ever **Educational Technology Professional Learning Day** on **Wednesday, July 28, 2021**. On this day you will meet 5 educational professionals as they share with you tangible tools that you can apply to your classroom and share with your colleagues. Topics include:

- STREAM in the City of Houston
- E-Sports
- Timely Feedback with Clicker Systems
- Tech Literacy
- Classroom Engagement with Digital Tools

There is **no cost** to attend this event and your attendance is applicable to your PD hours. Visit the ED TECH webpage for all details:

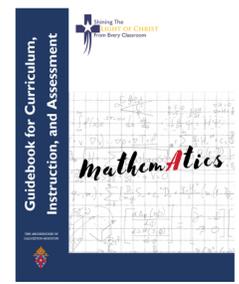
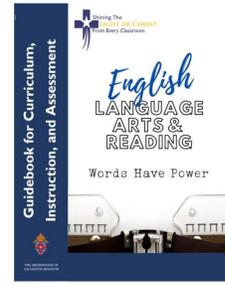


<https://www.choosecatholicschools.org/summer-ed-tech>

Guidebook Updates

by Laura Rolo, Director of Instruction and Professional Development

Has it been a year already? How many times have we said that when a baby turns one, and we remember when they were born? Or perhaps we attended a wedding a year ago, but it seems like it just happened last month! Social media



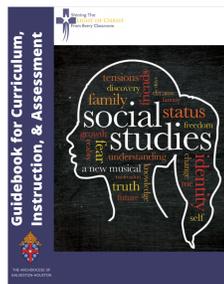
reminders do a great job of filling in the blanks of when things happen, and I guess it's true that time really does fly. We are approaching a 1 year milestone in our Catholic Schools, the launch of our **ELAR and Math guidebooks**. These curriculum resources were “born” last year and teachers spent this school year exploring and becoming familiar with the curriculum, instructional, and assessment components. One of the ways that guidebooks differ from traditional curriculum guides is how they are updated. Traditional curriculum guides are typically not updated for several years, and that results in a lack of access to current best practice, current resources, and the research base becomes outdated. Guidebooks are online documents that are not stagnant. When experience with use and feedback come along, guidebooks can be edited and updated with timely responsiveness. Now that we are nearing the one year anniversary, it's time to go back and see what needs revising, updating, or what resources could be added to make it more helpful. If you need an opportunity to review the guidebooks, you can access them here:

[W ELAR Guidebook 20-21.docx](#)

[W Math Guidebook 20-21.docx](#)

If you have suggestions for revision and editing of either or both of the existing guidebooks, please send an email to csogeneral@archgh.org Please include your name, grade-level(s), content areas, and school, along with the details of your recommendation.

Be on the lookout for our next curriculum siblings, the **Science Guidebook**, and the **Social Studies Guidebook**, due at the end of June, 2021!



Summer Kits for Catholic Families

From Sadlier Religion



Summer is the perfect opportunity for families to build and share faith. Our free summer kits offer many ways they can make it a faith-filled summer, including:

- Practical yet meaningful ways to put the Year Amoris Laetitia into practice
- Sessions to talk about faith and ways to live it out
- Prayers for every summer occasion, including everyday moments
- Simple activities and inspiring stories to build discipleship and cultivate

Resources are available in English and Spanish.

[Download now for free!](#)

CAPERNAUM CORNER

Our mission is to provide formation to anyone, anywhere, and at any time so that the faithful are engaged in responding to the call to be disciples of Christ



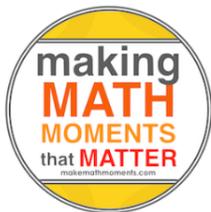
Need hours for your Catechist Certificate? Login to Capernaum and search “catechist modules” for a comprehensive list of what is offered.

CLICK  TO CONNECT

Check out this section for instructional and religious resources! Have a resource to share? Send it to csogeneral@archgh.org



Download the lead4ward app today for FREE access to great instructional resources! Check out the revision/editing checklists for ELAR, and the Academic Vocabulary resources for the four core content areas.



If you have not subscribed to Making Math Moments that Matter, what are you waiting for?! Create an account and access numerous videos, resources, webinars, etc. to make your math instruction come alive!





Explore what Catholic Schools around the nation are doing this summer. Scan the QR code to visit the NCEA PD site.

NCEA Spring/Summer Professional Development

- **[Addressing Student Learning Loss](#) - June 16 - 18; school-year PLN**
Catholic schools have worked tirelessly to engage learners in-person, virtually and in hybrid configurations in 2020 and 2021. Now that we have multiple academic data points over time, it is time to make sense of the achievement and growth data in front of us with intention of addressing patterns of student learning loss. Join us for three days of learning this spring, along with three additional checkpoints in the 2021-2022 school year.
- **[Care for Our Common Home: STREAM Integration](#) - June 23 - 25; school-year PLN**
Pope Francis calls us to care for our common home in his encyclical letter Laudato Si'. What does this mean for our Catholic school classrooms? This summer workshop and school-year PLN will address Catholic faith integration in STREAM. We invite teachers and school leaders in K-12 to join us for learning and implementation of renewed strategies to form our students with a Catholic worldview while learning science, technology, engineering, the