



Curriculum Courier

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

Happy New Year Catholic School Teachers!

By this time, you will be closing out another successful and eventful **Catholic Schools Week!** This time of celebration and thanksgiving for the beautiful gift of Catholic education is truly unique. Often, we view this celebration as something we do for *others* so they can see what an opportunity it is. However, it's for **YOU** as well. We pray this week has deepened your love and appreciation for *where you are, why you are there, and who you are there for-the disciples of Christ!* Each of us in the Catholic Schools Office extends our deepest appreciation for your commitment to this mission and being such a vital part of it. We hope you have been blessed, refreshed, and renewed to carry on and finish strong!

Speaking of renewal, we are excited to launch our 1st Annual **Catholic Schools Spring Retreat!** Participants will gather on Monday, February 17, 2020 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School. Plans have been in the works to bring you an inspiring day of music, prayer, reflection, and guest speakers. We will close with a joyful celebration of the Mass. Many thanks to our Retreat Committee for the great work they have done to make the retreat fulfilling for each one of you.



Many thanks to the Holy Spirit for His abundant blessings and gifts in the planning and preparing for your retreat experience! Please pray for the success of our retreat; our prayer is in the next column to the right. See you soon!

Laura Rolo, Director of Instruction

Norson Fernandez
St. Francis de Sales Catholic School
Mark Dolce
Christ the Redeemer Catholic School
Sue Sonnier
St. Cecilia Catholic School
Julia Clancy
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School
Elizabeth McLaughlin
St. Laurence Catholic School
Susan Little
St. Pius V Catholic School
Nestor Cayanan
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School
Kathleen Khoury
True Cross Catholic School
Stephen Crawford
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, February 1, 2020: Catholic Schools Got Talent!** at St. Pius X HS
- **Wednesday, February 5, 2020: Archdiocesan Spelling Bee** at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School
- **Friday, February 14, 2020: Feast of St. Cyril and Methodius, and Valentine's Day**
- **Saturday, February 15, 2020: STEPS4STUDENTS 5K Run/Walk**
- **Monday, February 17, 2020: Catholic Schools Spring Retreat** at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory HS
- **Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday: Lent begins**

Prayer for the Success of Our Retreat

Almighty God, whose hands hold all matters in life, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, grant the grace of fruitfulness in our apostolate as retreat planners and facilitators.

Come Holy Spirit, fill us with Your gifts, Grant wisdom, that we may bring careful consideration to our planning efforts. Grant understanding, that we may strive for consensus so that Your will be done. Grant wonder and awe, so that every soul is refreshed and filled with your peace.

We pray for the success of our Archdiocesan Retreat:

- *For our speakers, that they be inspired by the Holy Spirit to touch hearts.*
- *For our benefactors and all who make this retreat possible.*
- *For our school communities, that we grow together in love and service of the Lord.*
- *For our students, may they be formed as faithful disciples sent forth to transform the world.*

We place our trust in You and in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our archdiocese, pray for us. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, patroness of American Catholic Schools, pray for us. St. Ignatius of Loyola, patron of spiritual retreats, pray for us. AMEN

Congratulations! These campuses have earned their designation as S.T.R.E.A.M. *Synergy* Schools:



Assumption
Corpus Christi
Holy Family
Holy Ghost
Our Lady of Fatima-Galena Park
Our Lady of Fatima-Texas City
Our Lady of Lourdes
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Queen of Peace
Sacred Heart-Conroe
St. Anne-Tomball
St. Anthony of Padua
St. Cecilia

St. Clare of Assisi
St. Helen
St. John Paul II
St. Laurence
St. Martha
St. Mary-League City
St. Mary Magdalene
St. Mary of the Purification
St. Pius V
St. Thomas More
St. Vincent de Paul
True Cross

Mary's Fiat by Barbara White

On January 1st, we celebrated *The Solemnity of Mary*. On this day we honor our Blessed Mother, who, in her fiat to God, brought our Savior into the world to redeem us. She is the Mother of God and of Vocations. The role she plays in our salvation and that of the world lies in her "yes" to God. He chose her to carry out His plan of salvation. Rather than asking God to bless our plans, we must follow Mary's example of asking God to bless us with His will. Striving to have the courage of Our Blessed Mother to say "yes" can change the world. Mary was open to things that would cost her; such as her reputation, her own ideas and plans or even her life. She had to be able to accept the consequences of saying "yes".

We see a glimpse of this in Mary's fiat; "Let it be done to me according to your will. My soul magnifies the Lord, my Savior!" She recognized that God was bigger than her plans, her understanding, and her ability to conceptualize.

STREAM Religion Activity: Mary's "yes" brought Jesus our Savior to us. In your own "yes" to God, through your vocation, how can you bring Jesus to others? What if you choose to be a doctor? Engineer? Artist? Writer? Teacher? Priest? Religious Life? Computer Programmer? How will you magnify the Lord in your vocation by bringing Jesus to others through your "yes"?

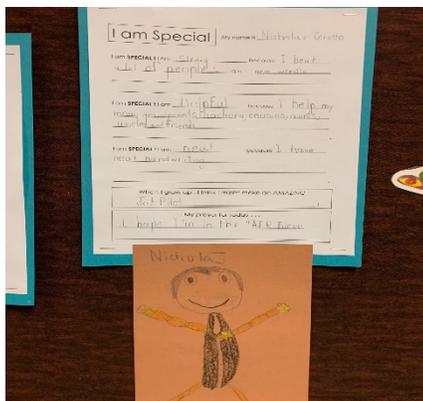


PD Opportunities and Resources!

Click here!

What a wonderful time to begin a New Year. 2020 brings with it so many possibilities to grow in our profession and we would like to share a few professional development opportunities and resources to help you grow in your profession and our S.T.R.E.A.M. *Synergy* initiative.

Some of these opportunities are free, some have newsletters with great resources, many give you free membership with plenty of on-demand webinars, and others offer great learning experiences at a low cost. Happy New Year, and Happy Learning! *Researched and compiled by Sr. Bernadette Nguyen, St. Cecilia Catholic School*

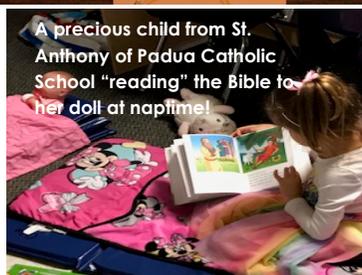


Students completed a response / reflection to the story "**You Are Special!**" by Max Lucado. In the ELA curriculum, they are studying characters and how they solve problems. The book was used to:

- Highlight how each of us was made in a unique and special way by God.
- Share how important it is to spend time with God; He wants to help us solve our problems!

This ELA activity combined listening to a story, making connections, participating in a self-study to see how each of us is unique and special, understanding that God wants us to "come and see Him" every day, recognizing the importance of self-worth, AND all the components that go into writing a piece to be published. They also completed a self-portrait.

(submitted by Veronica Tucker, principal at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School)



A precious child from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School "reading" the Bible to her doll at naptime!

High student-engagement activities and practice with the **process standards** is at your fingertips for free! Visit www.lead4ward.com, or download the app!

