



November Newsletter

Dear SMS Families,



It's November! The month that we celebrate All Saints and All Souls (November 2). My favorite day of the year, Tuesday, November 1, is All Saints Day! All students and staff will be arriving at school that day dressed as the Saint they researched. Students are asked to stay in costume for the remainder of the day, as we'll be processing with Fr. Brandon for the opening procession at Mass, giving Saint presentations, and attending an All Saints Day party with food, games, and other activities! Parents, families, and friends, please come to the 9:00am Mass to see and pray with us! For Catholics, it is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that it holds the same weight as a Sunday Mass and is obligatory to attend. I'm looking forward to seeing all our future Saints dressed as the great Saints in heaven!

In the News and Shamrock ShoutOuts:

- ♣ Attached (online), you'll find an update from our superintendent for Catholic schools in the diocese of Erie, Jim Gallagher. This year, all schools across the diocese have set a high bar for our 3rd-12th Grade students in the area of Mathematics. We want all of our students to score a 65% or higher on the NWEA Map Growth assessments. In order for students at SMS to reach that goal by the end of the school year, our school goal is to achieve 60% growth for each student. You can help us and your child in particular reach that goal by working intentionally with them on their Math homework and practicing Math facts with them. This can be done in the in-between times at home: in the car, as they're brushing their teeth, at the dinner table. The more your child knows and understands his/her Math facts, the better mathematician they will be and the closer they will get to achieving 60% growth and 65% achievement by the end of the year. We need your help!
- ♣ St. Michael Parish and School have been in The Record Argus a few times this past month! Congratulations to our newly installed pastor, Fr. Brandon Kleckner! We are so glad that you are at our parish, Fr. Brandon, and that you support our school! Congratulations too to our PTO moms and dads who put together SMS Minion Students as our contribution to Greenville's Scarecrows in the Park! Please vote for our installment on the Chambers' Facebook page!
- ♣ Congratulations to the 2nd and 1st Graders who read at Mass for the first times last week and today! They did a fantastic job!
- ♣ Thank you to the parents and grandparents who chaperoned the Waugh House field trip on October 24 and the Irons Mill field trip on October 27: Sara Barr, Leighanne Bert, Allison and Joe Dangrow, Matt Doddo, Cindy Eckhard, Aimee Forsythe, Kenda Hoovler, Joe Ribley, Mikealina Stanec, Rebecca Scott, Christa Sellards. Thank you too to Ms. G. for being the liaison between SMS and Irons Mill and the PTO for providing buses for the day! Thank you to all of the teachers and aides who are always so giving, generous, and organized!
- ♣ In my inbox the other day, I found this encouraging Shamrock Shoutout: "I have to give Mrs. G a huge shout out! I've seen her for the past couple of years from working the SAFE program and there aren't enough compliments to give her. And this year I have really taken notice because of how she is with Titan and the other kids. She has thrown football with Titan, takes the kids outside all the time and plays with them. She clearly has a love for these kids, and it shows. As a

parent, I appreciate this so much knowing he's with someone who enjoys being with them and treats them so well. She truly is a blessing for these kids!" -Tammie Fry-Rothschild

- ♣ We raised \$170.00 for Stray Haven in our Casual for a Cause on October 20! Thank you for your generosity!
- ♣ This year's raffle grand prize is a 2022 Yamaha Wolverine RMax2 1000 XR-T Side by Side Utility vehicle OR \$20,000 cash. We have a huge opportunity to raise significant funds to benefit St. Michael School and Catholic education. We invite everyone to help support us by purchasing tickets, selling tickets to friends and family, volunteering to sell at an event in the community and by promoting the Side by Side Raffle. We would like every family to sell at least 1 packet of tickets (they come in bunches of 10) to make this event a huge success!! Tickets will be available this weekend after all Masses and can also be acquired through the school office. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP US SELL TICKETS AFTER MASSES AND AT EVENTS AROUND THE COMMUNITY!!**
- ♣ ST. MICHAEL FORTY CLUB 109 CHANCES TO WIN PRIZES TOTALING \$26,150 Ticket cost is \$100. There are 3 weekly winners for \$100, \$100 & \$50. There are 8 winning numbers drawn at Christmas and Easter week for \$500, \$250, \$125, \$75 (2 each prize). One SPECIAL drawing on October 20 for people that have fully paid for their ticket. The final drawing is May 28, 2023 with 57 winners for a total cash prize of \$13,400. Only 600 tickets sold. Tickets still available. Please contact any seller listed to purchase tickets: Wes Bates @ 724 699-6255 Walter Beh @724-588-3108 Natalie Higbee @724-699-9021 Mark Holian @ 724-932-5937 Fran Krachkowski @ 724-588-3749 Roseanne McConnell @ 724-588-3254 Judy McKay @ 724-456-5654 Charles Stepp @724-588-2127

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Greenville Halloween Parade

SMS plans to walk in Greenville's Halloween Parade this year with a float! Join us on Saturday, October 29 with your best costume and/or SMS gear! Meet us in Riverside Park by 1:30pm. The parade begins at 2:00pm.

Halloween

Monday, October 31, is Halloween as well as the day we'll be celebrating with a parade at 12:30pm and classroom parties to follow. Parents, families, and friends are invited to watch our parade of costumes either outside the front of the school or in Lateran Hall (depending on the weather). Students should come to school dressed in their uniforms with plans to change into an easy-to-put-on costume for the afternoon. Teachers will be in touch with specifics for parties!

Report Cards

Report cards for the first grading period will be going home the week of October 31 for all students in Grades 1 and Up!

Shorts at School

Starting November 1, shorts will no longer be permitted to be worn to school, due to the colder weather. Shorts can again be worn April 1, 2023.

School Masses

Each Friday, a different class is in charge of providing readers and greeters. For November, the following classes will be in charge: November 4: 4th Grade; November 11: 3rd Grade; November 18: 2nd Grade. Students love when their parents or other family members attend Mass! Please know you are welcome and wanted!

November Jeans Days

The Jeans Days for October are Thursday, [November 3](#) and [November 10](#).

First Friday and Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, [November 4](#), is the First Friday of the Month! Please join us for Mass that day and for Eucharistic Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the school day. I also encourage you to make a visit Jesus in Adoration with your family that day too!

Hot Lunch

Thursday, [November 10](#), is our Taco Bell Hot Lunch! For those who paid, lunch will be a 1 or 2 soft tacos, doritos, and fruit.

Spaghetti Dinner

PTO is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, [November 12](#) at 4:00pm in Lateran Hall to raise money for PTO events at school. Each class is asked to contribute a themed basket for the Basket Raffle at the Dinner. Look for information coming from your child's teacher. Please bring your appetite, generosity, and all your friends and family on November 12! Help us spread the word!

Casual for a Cause

Thursday, [November 17](#), will be our Casual for a Cause. Since deer hunting is such a popular and important tradition in our area, our Cause for November will be [Hunters Sharing the Harvest](#). Please see page 21 of our [Handbook](#) for what is permissible on Casual for a Cause days. In order to participate, students and staff need to bring in *at least* \$1 toward our adopted Cause for the month.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on Tuesday, [November 22](#) from 4:00pm-7:00pm and on Wednesday, [November 23](#) from 8:30am-12:00pm. Conference times are every half hour and can be scheduled through Mrs. Hoovler, in the school office, not through your child's teacher. Please make every effort to

schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher!

Thanksgiving Break! No School!

I am so thankful for the SMS Community: the amazing students, teachers, staff, families, alumni, and parishioners that make it up! You all bring such unique gifts and radiate the face of God in different ways. You are a GIFT! In order to stop and take time to be thankful this Thanksgiving, our Thanksgiving break will be Wednesday, [November 23](#) through Tuesday, [November 29](#). Classes will resume for students on Wednesday, [November 30](#).

Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is [November 27](#). An often-overlooked fact: the Church's New Year is always the first Sunday of Advent! Throughout Advent at school, students will be lighting the Advent wreath and hearing the story leading up to and including Jesus' birth. We'll also be celebrating some of the major Saints whose feastdays fall in Advent: St. Nicholas (December 6), St. Juan Diego (December 9), Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), and Santa Lucia or St. Lucy (December 13).

Pancakes and a Parade

Saturday, [December 3](#), will be a PTO-sponsored Pancakes with Santa Breakfast from 9:00-11:00am. Later that day, SMS will be walking in the Greenville Christmas Parade! We'll need you and your children to walk with us! Stay tuned for more information!

Santa Land

Santa Land will take place for students on Tuesday, [December 6](#), which is the feastday of St. Nicholas! 😊

School Picture Day

SMILE! 😊 School Picture Re-Take Day will be Wednesday, [December 7](#).

Christmas Week

The teachers and staff will be celebrating Christmas together with a Staff Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 20. There will be NO SAFE that day after school. The following night, Wednesday, December 21, will be our Christmas Family Night at 6pm in Lateran Hall, to which you, your family, and your friends are all invited. We plan to put on a Nativity play, in which all of the students will have a part! The morning of Thursday, December 22,

will be Christmas parties for the students. Our Christmas vacation will start with a NOON Dismissal on December 22. There will be NO SAFE on this date either. Classes will resume again on Tuesday, January 3.

New Year's Eve Party

To help ring in 2023, we'll be hosting a kid-friendly New Year's Eve Party on Saturday, December 31, from 1:00-3:00pm in Lateran Hall. Stay tuned for more information!

Reminders:

- The drinking fountains at school are turned off, but we do have water bottle filling stations with filtered water. Please double-check each day to make sure your child has a refillable water bottle.
- **When packing lunches for your child, please be sure to pack appropriate utensils. We are going through our backup store of plastic spoons like water!**
- As per our dress code, all students in Grades K-8 need to have their shirts tucked in. Belts are required for students in Grades 4-8 when wearing pants or shorts with belt loops.
- **Toys should not be sent/brought into school. The exception will be by special permission/request from the teacher (i.e. a show-n-tell project).**
- You are an awesome, amazing person and your child is too! We are so blessed to have you at our school this year!

Thank you for partnering with us to make our students' year a great one!

St. Michael, pray for us!

Grace and Peace,

Emily Igone 😊

Principal

"Open wide the doors of your heart to Christ! Do not be afraid!" - St. John Paul II



Updates from the CSO

The CSO is a ministry supported by the Catholic Services Appeal

Fall 2022

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Page 1

In this issue:

- ◇ Welcome new administrators
- ◇ NWEA Map Growth Assessment Updates
- ◇ Mathematics curriculum 3-5 updated
- ◇ Catholic Schools Leadership Conference, 2022

Contact us:

We want to hear from you! Tell us what's noteworthy in your school or system.

Send a short story or description of your event or program to Caryl Unsel at: cunsel@ErieRCD.org



Letter from the Superintendent

Dear partners in Catholic education:

I am so excited with the beginning of another great school year! There has been an incredible amount of work done by school administrators over the summer to grow in their faith, review student data, and “raise the bar” for Catholic education. School administrators and teachers serving in the role of curriculum leader have been collaborating with the CSO to explore the three areas of leadership in Catholic education – Spiritual, Educational and Executive. To facilitate growth in our roles as spiritual leaders, we have adopted the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) call for a National Eucharistic Revival. I shared a personal story at our annual conference about the significance of the Eucharist in my life and invited school leaders to reflect in prayer on their own experiences with the Eucharist. Laura Blake, newly named assistant superintendent, shared about the significance of the Eucharist in her work as a Catholic school educator. At our most recent meeting, we revisited this theme and provided an opportunity to participate in Eucharistic adoration. Again, leaders spent time in reflection asking themselves: What does it mean to be a spiritual leader in our school or system? The time spent in prayer and reflection reminded us of our ultimate purpose in Catholic education and set the tone for the upcoming year.



On another note, it gives me great pleasure to officially welcome Laura Blake as the new assistant superintendent for schools. Laura has a tremendous passion for Catholic education. Her experiences serving in a variety of Catholic school roles make her a perfect fit for this position. I am eager to watch her contributions impact our work within the diocese. Laura and her family have relocated to Erie. Her two daughters are attending St. George School. Please welcome Laura, her husband Brent and daughters Lily and Caroline to the Erie community.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the transitions occurring in the CSO. Words cannot express my gratitude for Doug Chuzie and Dr. Signorino who have both served faithfully in the Catholic Schools Office. Doug has been with the diocese for 22 years and is recognized for his role leading athletics in the schools. Dr. Signorino is retiring after nine years and will be remembered for his calm leadership and efforts to redefine Catholic education through *Building in Truth and Love*. Both finished their time with the CSO at the end of August. They will be missed very much.

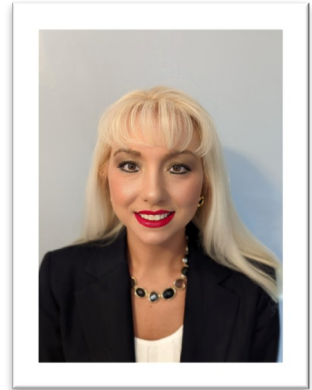
As always, I am grateful for our shared mission and partnership in Catholic education. God Bless your school year!

Sincerely,

Laura Blake, former president of Venango Catholic Schools in Oil City, has been named assistant superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Erie.



"I am thrilled, deeply grateful, and honored to serve the Diocese of Erie as the next assistant superintendent of Catholic schools," Blake said. "I look forward to working closely with each of the Catholic schools throughout the diocese, helping to continue and strengthen the vital mission and great work already being accomplished."



New Leadership for Schools in the Diocese of Erie



From left to right:

Maricarol Schoenfeldt Principal - Saint Gregory School

Janet Halicki, Principal - Kennedy Catholic Middle/High School

Kevin Smith, President – Villa Maria Cathedral Preparatory
Catholic School System

William Hall, Principal - Blessed Sacrament School



Mathematics Scope and Sequence for Grades K-5



K-2	3-5
Kate Kapp, Blessed Sacrament	Betsy Ochs, St. Joe (Lucinda)
Alyssa Burkett, St. Joe (Lucinda)	Rita Cecco, St. Joe (Warren)
Leslie Hazlewood, St. Luke	Laura Beichner, IC
Joni Ladaika, St. James	Amber Wachob, DuBois
Kalee Curtis, St. Joe (Warren)	Myranda Nolan, Mother Teresa
Susan Thorp, St. Francis	Lisa Panighetti, CSO
Tara Eaton, St. George	Kathy Keys, Consultant
	Caryl Unsel, CSO



A Focus on Mathematics for Schools Across the Diocese

This past spring and summer, Lisa Panighetti, director of curriculum for the Catholic Schools Office, brought together a team of experienced mathematics teachers from across the diocese to answer the question, “When it comes to learning mathematics, what do we specifically want all students to know and be able to do at each grade level?”

This group of expert teachers formed a mathematics curriculum committee that met both virtually and in-person to develop a broadly paced teaching guide that aligns the mathematical content standards and the standards for mathematical practice into a scope and sequence that will be used to ensure students have consistent access to the same mathematical content and skills instruction in all elementary and middle schools across the diocese.

Mrs. Panighetti had this to say about the process, “The teachers who participated in this work should be commended for their dedication to our students and our Catholic schools. This work is meaningful for both the teacher and the student because it provides a curriculum road map for mathematical instruction and learning.”

A teacher said, “We spent time looking at student data and making sure an emphasis was placed on the most essential mathematical content and skills for each grade level. This was not a painless process, but the new mathematics scope and sequence is an excellent curricular resource for our teachers. Teachers will be able to follow this essential guide while maintaining the flexibility needed to make instructional decisions that meet the individual needs of their learners.”

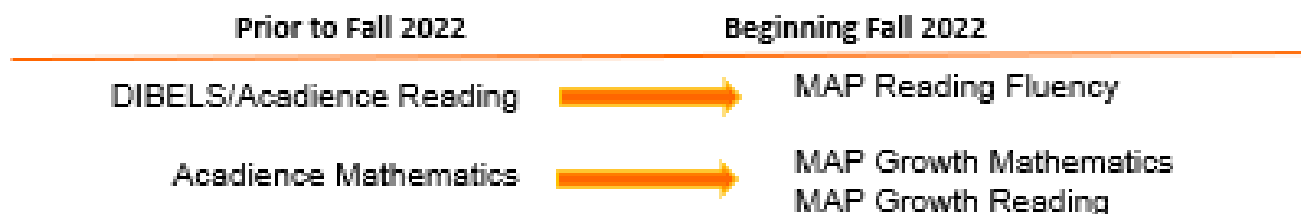
Currently, the committee has completed this work for grades kindergarten through grade five. A second group of teachers has been tasked with creating a mathematics scope and sequence for grades six through eight. Once this project is completed the new mathematics scope and sequence will provide elementary and middle school teachers with easy access to the essential mathematics content and practice standards that must be taught and learned at each grade level.

Schools in the Diocese Expand NWEA Assessments to include
MAP Growth Reading and Mathematics in Grades K-10
and
Adopt a MAP Reading Fluency in Grades K-2

NWEA MAP Growth Reading and Mathematics

At the start of this school year, teachers will no longer be administering DIBELS Acadience Reading or Acadience Mathematics assessments in the primary grades. Instead, MAP Growth assessments will be administered in grades K-10.

Last year, schools across the diocese administered the MAP Growth Reading and Mathematics assessments in grades 3-9. After our first year of using this tool, principals requested expanding the assessment plan to include kindergarten, first, second, and tenth grades. This expansion to include all grades K-10 enables educators and parents to monitor their student's growth and achievement as they progress throughout their Catholic education. We are proud of our Catholic schools and are finding immense value in using this student data to monitor student growth and achievement and to make overall continuous improvements to the academic education we provide to students and the families we serve.



NWEA MAP Reading Fluency

Additionally, the Catholic Schools Office is excited to announce that grades K-2 will be adopting the early literacy screener NWEA MAP Reading Fluency assessment for 2022-2023. This is an on-line, adaptive universal screener and progress monitoring assessment which accommodates pre-readers, early readers, and fluent readers in one 20-minute group assessment.

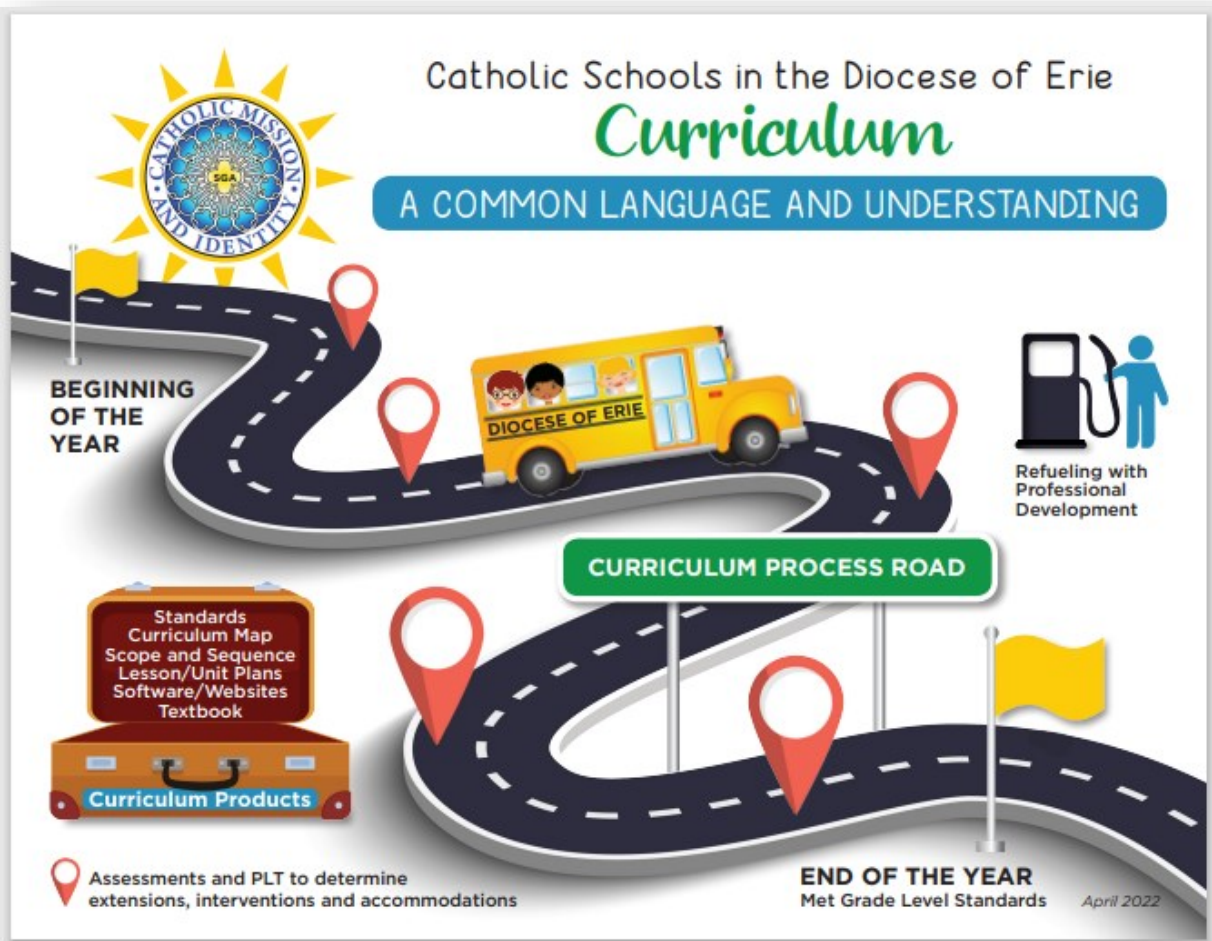
The MAP Reading Fluency assessment is both efficient and comprehensive. Group testing and automatic scoring allow educators to spend less time conducting one-to-one fluency assessments which requires hand scoring. Teachers will be able to focus their time on early reading instruction for students.

Research has shown that high quality early literacy instruction is key to unlocking the academic skills needed for continued academic success and growth throughout a child's education. Hence, assessing an early learner's reading strengths and identifying targeted areas for growth provides primary educators with critical information needed to build pre-reading foundational, fluency, and reading comprehension skills for each student in their class. The MAP Reading Fluency assessment will provide primary teachers with critical data that measures oral reading and decoding, fluency, and reading comprehension skills.

Primary educators from across the diocese have participated in introductory professional development to learn how to administer the new NWEA MAP Reading Fluency assessment, and schools have been provided classroom sets of high-quality headsets with microphones for administering these assessments.

Catholic School Administrators and Teacher Leaders Attend 6th Annual Catholic Schools Leadership Conference

The sixth annual Catholic Schools Leadership Conference took place in June. The 2022 theme was *Staying the Course*. A grant from the Catholic Foundation of Northwest PA provided the financial support for the conference facilitator, Eliza Thomas. Ms. Thomas is a professor at Flathead Valley Community College in Montana and a doctoral candidate. She facilitated the conference for 74 administrators and teachers. The conference opened with Mass at Saint Francis Xavier Parish in McKean with Fr. Jason Feigh presiding and an opening keynote and banquet dinner at Nick's Place. On the following two days, Ms. Thomas led the participants on a "Learning Roadtrip" on a common language for curriculum and instruction.



Special thanks to the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania whose financial support made the 2022 Catholic Schools Leadership Conference possible.