



Updates from the CSO

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Page 1

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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.

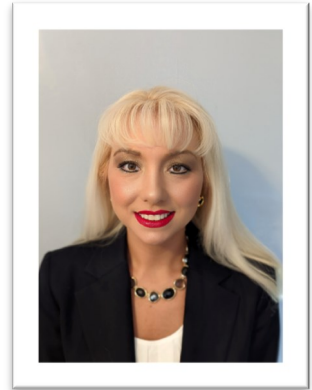
As always, I am grateful for our shared mission and partnership in Catholic education. God Bless your school year!

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

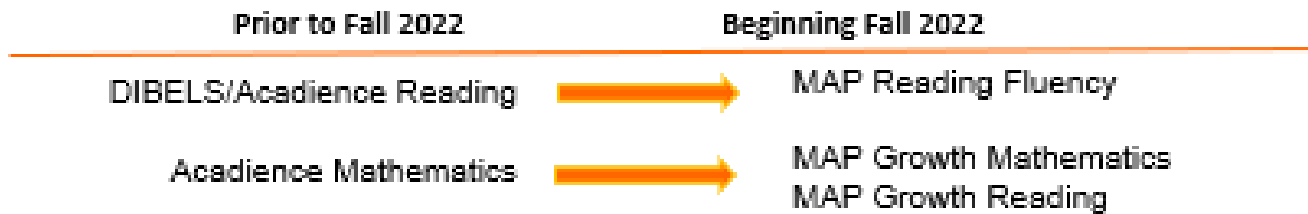
and

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.

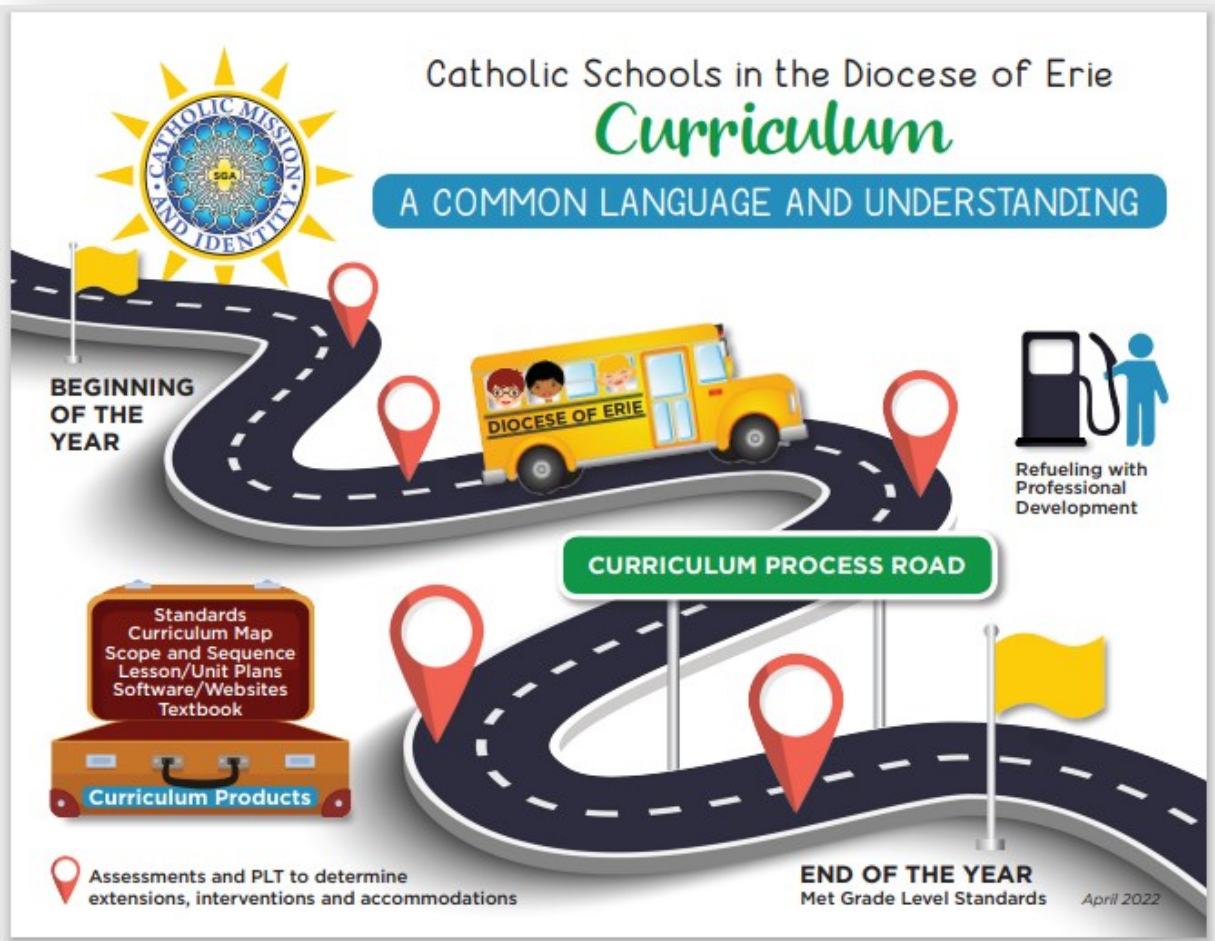
The MAP Reading Fluency assessment is both efficient and comprehensive. Group testing and automatic scoring allow educators to spend less time conducting one-to-one fluency assessments which requires hand scoring. Teachers will be able to focus their time on early reading instruction for students.

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.

