

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

December 15, 2023

Pause and Ponder

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.

Isaiah 9:5



El Greco, Nativity, 1603-1605

*The staff of the Catholic Schools Office is grateful to you
for all you do each day in Catholic education throughout the school year.*

We wish you a peaceful ending to the Advent season

and abundant blessings at Christmas.

May faith, hope, and love – the gifts of Christmas – be yours throughout 2024.

Lou, Carol, Mary, Dan, MaryAnn, Amanda

Let Us Pray...

+ *that the Light of Christ burns brightly in our homes, schools, and world this Christmas and throughout 2024*



+ *for the January intention of Pope Francis – For the Gift of Diversity in the Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church*

Vision for the Future

Applications and all required documentation for the 2024-2025 school year must be received by FACTS no later than **January 31, 2024**.

Tuition assistance through the Diocese of Wilmington is provided to children attending **Grades K-12**.

Families currently receiving tuition assistance from the diocese must reapply. Assistance is **not automatically renewed** from year to year.



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Dec 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Friday, Dec 22

Christmas Break begins at the end of the school day

Sunday, Dec 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, Dec 25

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Monday, Jan 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day

Tuesday, Jan 2

School resumes following the Christmas break

CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am

Thursday, Jan 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Friday, Jan 5

St. John Neumann

Administrators' Meeting

Sunday, Jan 7

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Important Information

Administrators' Retreat

The deadline for returning the Administrators' Retreat registration form is **today, Friday, December 15**.

Diocesan Offices – Christmas Vacation Schedule

Diocesan offices will be closed **Monday-Tuesday, December 25-26**.

Principal's Notes

The next edition of Principal's Notes will be issued **Friday, January 5**.

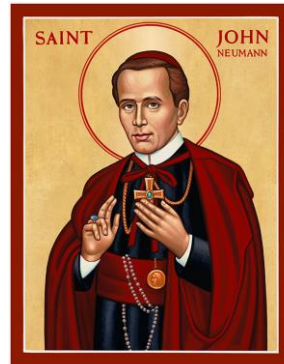
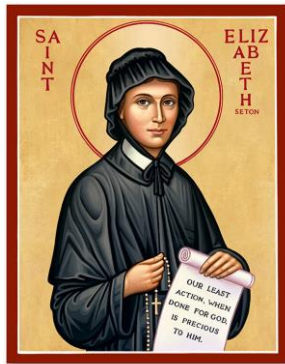
Catholic Identity – Catholic School Leaders

In the first week of January we celebrate two giants in Catholic school education – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Neumann. Both saints changed the face of Catholic school education in our nation.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (January 4) was the first person born in what would become the United States to be canonized by the Catholic Church (1975). She established the first Catholic girls' school in the nation in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she also founded the first American congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of Charity.

St. John Neumann (January 5) immigrated to the United States in 1836, where he was ordained, later joined the Redemptorist order, and became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia (1852–1860). He is the first United States bishop (and to date the only male U.S. citizen) to be canonized. While Bishop of Philadelphia, Neumann founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. He was canonized in 1977.

Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton and John Neumann...pray for us.



Administrators' Meeting – January 5

The next Administrators' meeting will be held **Friday, January 5**. The meeting location, time and agenda will be forwarded for review before the Christmas break. All parish and diocesan schools should be represented by at least one administrator. If additional administrators are attending from a parish or diocesan school or if administrators from private Catholic schools wish to attend, please inform Amanda McLain (302-573-3133) no later than **Wednesday, January 4**. Following the morning meeting, administrators will celebrate the Christmas season with a luncheon sponsored by the Catholic Principals' Organization (CPO).



Group Movie Licensing Renewal Deadline – January 12

It is important for us to abide by copyright law when it comes to showing movies and educational films in group settings in our facilities. Christ the Teacher Catholic School will again be coordinating the movie licensing this year. Christian Video Licensing International (CVLI) covers over 1,000 movie studios, including major studios such as: Disney, Pixar, Sony, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Paramount, along with the list found here: <http://cvli.com/producers/total-package/>. The license also covers streaming services when a teacher streams from their own account to a class, as long as the producer is found in the list linked above. (Netflix, Hulu, etc.)

Based on the enrollment of the schools which purchased a license last year, the licensing company quoted us around \$0.80 per student, if all of the same schools sign on. ***This year, the schools who were licensed last year will automatically renew.*** If you are interested in removing yourself from the license or adding on to our group license, please e-mail Tina Gallagher at Christ the Teacher Catholic School at tgallagher@christtheteacher.org, no later than ***Friday, January 12***. Invoices will be sent to schools in February. Last year 19 schools participated which had an enrollment of 5,803 students bringing the cost to \$.71 per student.

Professional Development Day Survey Deadline – January 12

The PD Day Planning Committee has been meeting since early November to work on the details of our March 11 diocesan-wide PD Day. The theme for the day will be ***AI and Technology: The Future is Now.*** The committee is seeking feedback from educators throughout the diocese to ensure that the presentations on PD Day will meet the needs of teachers from Pre-K through Grade 12. School administrators are asked to share the link below with all teachers and request that the survey be completed by ***Friday, January 12*** (prior to the next meeting of the committee). If there is a faculty meeting at your school between now and mid-January, perhaps teachers could be given a few minutes to complete the survey during the meeting; this may allow the committee to get more responses than just sending the link to faculty members.

Many thanks from the PD Day Planning Committee

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbsCGNiOLVSygZ52BENiAnQhLIZCxMKvL_yQtQUmFPMHfZ7w/viewform?usp=sharing

Innovate. Develop. Educate. Award Deadline – January 12

Please invite teachers to nominate a colleague for the Board of Catholic Schools I.D.E.A. The nomination form may be found at <https://forms.gle/MARBrhshQPgZ4FYz7>. The nomination deadline is ***Friday, January 12, 2024.***



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

In January the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) will be glad to receive information about Catholic Schools Week events at your school. Please remember that Catholic Schools Week is an occasion to showcase your school to the community. Faith – Knowledge – Service should be on display. Catholic Schools Week differs from Spirit Week in that it is an external message to your community about the quality Catholic education your school offers.

As a member of NCEA, you have access to the NCEA Marketing Kit. This resource is replete with materials, templates, prayer services, and other ideas to market your school during Catholic Schools Week and throughout the school year. Be sure to check it out!

With its emphasis on “community” (See the new logo!), make Catholic Schools Week 2024 not just a repeat of what your school has done year-to-year, but rather a new look for all members of the school community – staff, parents, students, donors, alumni. Fresh ideas will attract new eyes to your school.

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

***When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.***