

# PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

March 22, 2024

## ***Pause and Ponder***

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.*

***Psalms 51***



*Crucifixion – Diego Velázquez*

## ***Let Us Pray...***

*+ for all of us who walk with Jesus this week, may we be  
drawn more deeply into the Paschal Mystery*



## ***Weekly Calendar***

<b><i>Sunday, Mar 24</i></b>	<b><i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i></b>
Monday, Mar 25	Reconciliation Monday, all Churches, 3:00-8:00 pm
Tuesday, Mar 26	Chrism Mass, Holy Cross Church, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Mar 27	Easter break begins at dismissal
<b><i>Thursday, Mar 28</i></b>	<b><i>Holy Thursday School Holiday</i></b>
<b><i>Friday, Mar 29</i></b>	<b><i>Good Friday Diocesan Holiday School Holiday</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, Mar 31</i></b>	<b><i>Resurrection of the Lord</i></b>
<b><i>Monday-Friday, Apr 1-5</i></b>	<b><i>Octave of Easter School Holidays Diocesan Offices Closed–Apr 1</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, Apr 7</i></b>	<b><i>Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday</i></b>

## **Information**

**School Calendar 2024-2025** – The Master Calendar and the Calendar Planner information for 2024-2025 will be sent prior to the Easter break. Please review the information carefully to avoid scheduling conflicts with diocesan meetings and events and to fulfill the requirements in the memo.

**Principal's Notes** – The next publication of *Principal's Notes* will be **Friday, April 7**.

**Catholic Schools Office School Personnel Handbook** – We will soon be working to update policies in the *Catholic Schools Office School Personnel Handbook*. To assist us in the revision process, we are asking administrators to identify any policies/areas they believe need to be addressed or updated. Kindly submit your recommendations to Mary Filippone at [mfilippone@cdow.org](mailto:mfilippone@cdow.org) by **Friday, April 21**.

**St. Francis de Sales Convocation** – Information has been sent to all schools regarding the St. Francis de Sales Convocation on **Wednesday, April 24**. High schools are requested to submit nominees by April 16.

**Suspensions/Dismissals** – You are reminded that the Catholic Schools Office is to be notified when a student is suspended and the Catholic Schools Office is to be notified **prior to** the dismissal of a student.

**Confidentiality** – Teachers are reminded that confidentiality in discussing students is an expectation. Student issues should be discussed only with the appropriate persons in the appropriate setting. The faculty room, hallways, classrooms, recess yard, and other public places are not the appropriate place to discuss student issues.

**Classroom Door Windows** – Windows of classroom doors are not be blocked by paper, shades, curtains, or decorations. Classroom door windows should clear so that one may see into the classroom. This requirement protects teachers and students in accord with *For the Sake of God's Children* in creating a safe environment.

## **Professional Development Day Resources**

John Sowash and Kammas Kersch sent links to their presentations and other resources.

Links to John Sowash's presentations and other resources he shared:

Opening keynote: <https://tinyl.io/ARAm>

AI for teachers: <https://tinyl.io/ARAn>

AI for school leaders: <https://tinyl.io/ARAq>

Links to Kammas Kersch's presentations

[Teaching Tomorrow's Innovators: Integrating AI Concepts into Secondary Classroom Practices](#)

[Beyond the Basics: Innovative Strategies for Integrating Technology in Elementary Curriculum](#)

## ***Celebrating America's Semiquincentennial***

### **America 250 Field Trip Contest**

In 2026, the United States will mark our Semiquincentennial: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Today's young people are the leaders, innovators, and thinkers who will shape the next 250 years — and it's important their voices are heard as we commemorate this historic milestone.

America's Field Trip is a new contest that invites students across the country in grades 3–12 to be part of America's 250th anniversary by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — and earning the opportunity to participate in unforgettable field trip experiences at some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

Students may submit artwork, videos, or essays in response to the contest's prompt: **"What does America mean to you?"**

Twenty-five first-place awardees from each grade level category will receive free travel and lodging for a 3-day, 2-night trip to a select historical or cultural site. Visit <https://america250.org/FieldTrip/> for details.

## ***Congratulations!***

*St. Elizabeth School will shine a spotlight on its beloved teacher, Ms. Robin Hayden, as this year's recipient of the Benedictine Spotlight Award on Saturday, April 27! The school is honoring Ms. Hayden for her inspiration and advocacy of student creativity and participation in the arts.*



EDUCATE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER

IT COSTS GOD NOTHING, SO FAR AS WE KNOW,  
TO CREATE NICE THINGS:  
BUT TO COVERT REBELLIOUS WILLS  
COST HIM CRUCIFIXION.

C. S. LEWIS