

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

September 1, 2023

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

For each Beatitude that will be a monthly focus, a virtue to practice has been associated with it. The virtue connected with the first Beatitude is simplicity.

For each person simplicity may have a nuance of difference. To some it comes with a materialistic freedom from the clutter in our lives. Shedding items that have accumulated over time may be the way of focusing on what truly matters. To others simplicity in speech may be important. Speaking honestly, clearly, and directly may improve not only communication but also relationships. In some cases one may see simplicity as stress reduction. Living a balanced life may allow one to experience the moment without always living in the future. Reducing attention to the constant lure of technology could be another path to simplicity. Here the user is in charge and not the device.

Regardless of what avenue one chooses toward simplicity, the goal is always the same – to become blessed by choosing to be poor in spirit. Another way of looking at the first Beatitude and simplicity is to recognize that in creating space in my life in some way, I allow God the room to enter and I give myself the opportunity to listen, to speak, and to be with God.

Is there an act of simplicity you'd like to try this week?

Let Us Pray...

- + for the employed, under-employed, unemployed, and those who own or lead businesses as we celebrate Labor Day (September 4)
- + for grandparents, living and deceased, whom we remember on Grandparents' Day (September 10)
- + for the repose of the soul of Patricia Griffin, mother of Rebecca Harvey, Assistant Principal at Saint Mark's High School

Calendar Dates

<i>Sunday, Sep 3</i>	<i>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<i>Monday, Sep 4</i>	<i>Labor Day Diocesan Holiday</i>
Tuesday, Sep 5	CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Wednesday, Sep 6	Board of Catholic Schools Meeting, CSO Office
Friday, Sep 8	<i>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
<i>Sunday, Sep 10</i>	<i>Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Grandparents' Day</i>



Catholic Identity – Grandparents’ Day

Sunday, September 10 reminds us of the grandparents of Jesus – Ss. Joachim and Anne (Feast Day – July 26). Whether these are their real names or not, they represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully performed their duties, practiced their faith, and established an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remained obscure.

September 10 is the “feast of grandparents.” It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people’s greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life’s profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

Franciscanmedia

Important Information

And So It Begins...

The first week of school appeared to begin well. Thank you and please extend our gratitude to your faculty and staff for the smooth start of the new school year.

If you have not yet done so, please submit the **First Day Count** on the template that was provided to all schools – parish, diocese, and private. The next count will be due on September 30 and becomes the Official Registration 2023-2024 used for all reporting purposes throughout the school year.

Mentoring Program Meetings

Information about Mentoring Program meetings will be sent directly to the mentees and their mentors regarding dates, times, and locations.

September Due Dates

Please review the September Due Dates found [CSO Due Dates](#).

Elementary School Level Leaders

High School Department Chairs

Parish and diocesan elementary schools and high schools are requested to complete the Google sheet below by **Friday, September 15**. Currently, the information to be entered is in **red** print. When you verify or change information, please change the color to **black** print.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19KtAHJ7rhOlvaGdD-n_OisV5wCgqm2AxHGBmlRKchZo/edit#gid=1835250619



High School Information for Eighth Grade Students

High School Placement Test

The Diocese of Wilmington will administer the HSPT at diocesan and parish high schools (Padua Academy, Saint Elizabeth High School, Saint Mark's High School, and Saints Peter & Paul High School) on ***Saturday-Sunday, November 11-12***. Registration is now open. The HSPT registration process must be completed online through Scholastic Testing Services, Inc., at <https://stsusers.com/stsusers/registration/static/wilmington.php>. An information flier was distributed in last week's *Principal's Notes*.

High School Open House Dates

An Open House flier for Catholic high schools was distributed to schools. Please invite families of students in Grades 6-7-8 to attend these events.

High School Presentations

Administrators are reminded that only the Catholic high schools listed on the Open House flier may be welcomed to speak in Catholic elementary schools, to distribute promotional information through the Catholic elementary school, and to be invited for a high school fair, if offered at your school. Other schools – private, charter, public – may offer their information to students off campus. Information from schools other than the Catholic high schools is not distributed through Catholic elementary schools.

High School Visits / Shadow Days

Students in Catholic elementary schools may participate in up to two shadow day visits to Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Wilmington without penalty of absence. Verification of attendance at the shadow days should be obtained from the Catholic high school visited. Students visiting private, charter, or public high schools are marked absent for the day of the school visit.



Elementary School Grades

As administrators discuss assessment and grading with teachers, the following options offered in past years remain available. If your school plans to utilize any of these options, please be sure that the options are used consistently within a grade or among the grades in a level. Also, please remember to alert parents to the options, particularly in advance of the distribution of report cards. Finally, be sure you submit a Help Desk Ticket to inform PSISJS.

Possible options include:

In Grades 3-8

Combining Reading and Vocabulary into a single grade – Reading

Combining Writing and Grammar into a single grade – Writing

In Grades 1-8

Assessing Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, and Technology with a Pass/Fail grade

Delaware Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc.

The 2023-2024 math league info is posted on the DCTM website for teachers of students in grades 7-12 at <https://www.mydctm.org/home/math-league>.

The DCTM membership form is posted for teachers of K-12 math (and DCTM is looking for a K-2 teacher to join its board). Go to <https://www.mydctm.org/home/membership>.

DCTM-Delaware Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc.

<https://www.mydctm.org>

BrightArrow

If administrators wish to provide teachers with access to BrightArrow for communication purposes, please submit a Help Desk Ticket to PSISJS to request this access.

Vision for the Future 2024-2025 Applications

Applications for tuition assistance (Vision for the Future) for the 2024-2025 school year through the FACTS site open on **September 15, 2023**. The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2024**, and notification of awards will begin on **March 1, 2024**.

One More Time...

Have you ever had the experience of thinking you completed a task only to find that it was incorrect not once, but twice? Such is the case with the Open House flier. First there was a misspelling that was not caught in proofreading. Now, an incorrect date was included! I am hopeful that the attachment to this email is the final, final version. Please disregard previous copies and accept our apologies.

Thank You! Delaware Knights of Columbus

Thank you to the Delaware Knights of Columbus which issued tuition support to 11 parish and diocesan elementary schools in Delaware. The Knights' generosity of \$12,986 was greatly appreciated in assisting families choosing Catholic school education for their children.

The Catholic Schools Office joins the 11 parish and diocesan Delaware elementary schools in gratitude to the Delaware Knights of Columbus.

NATURE IS PLEASED WITH SIMPLICITY.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON