

THE FRIDAY UPDATE



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS...

Dear School Leaders,

We find ourselves at the end of an extraordinary year. It seems not so long ago that we marked the year with the Opening of Schools Mass, embarking on the unknown, but with steadfast faith that we would get through this, together. Just a few words could really ever describe all of our experiences this year, but certainly we all will have many stories, both triumphs and tribulations, to catalogue for the school year 2021. In keeping with recording our journey, I hope that the archdiocesan schools will enjoy the 2021-2022 ADW Catholic Schools Calendar, coming to an office near you. Please let your staff know how incredibly grateful I am for their exceptional work and dedication to our mission. I know of the incredible amount of work your faculty, staff and you have done to lead a successful school year and the work will continue over the summer, to close one chapter and begin another.

Some of the joyous times have been the Golden Apple honoree surprises that we enjoyed last week. Congratulations to these exemplary educators and models of excellence in teaching! The Catholic Schools Office had the honor of joining with 10 schools to celebrate some of the best and brightest, and we salute their testament to the vocation of teaching in a Catholic school. For more details on each Golden Apple honoree, please see pages 3 & 4 and follow us on social media.

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In addition, to these surprises, we have begun the annual and much needed promotion celebrations of our preschoolers, kindergartners, eighth graders, and high school seniors. We offer abundant prayers for these students, as they begin new journeys in their academic lives.

Please be sure to review the Master calendar and to-do lists for the end-of-the year tasks, including submitting Opening of Schools Mass anniversaries. We will also conduct the annual Data Summit, this year and have included information for summer academic enrichment at schools throughout the archdiocese.

Lastly, know that I will keep each of you in my prayers over the summer. There is a beautiful end-of-the-year prayer included in this edition. The Catholic Schools Office staff and I will pray this prayer, in thanksgiving for your faculty and staff. May you have a blessed summer with rest and relaxation.

In Peace,

Kelly Branaman



MASTER CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, June 9, 2021.** Strategic Planning Briefings for Pastors. 1-2:30 PM – Virtual
- **Wednesday, June 9, 2021.** ADW Board of Education Meeting. 6:00 PM – Virtual
- **Wednesday, June 10, 2021.** Strategic Planning Briefings for Pastors. 10-11:30 AM – Virtual
- **Friday, June 18, 2021.** Data Summit. 9-10:30 AM – Virtual
- **Monday, June 21, 2021.** Living Catholic Session. 9-4:00 PM – St. Michael, Ridge School

MASTER TO-DO LIST

- Complete Hispanic Enrollment Initiative Survey 2021 for principals or designees.
- Submit employees (educators and school staff) who are celebrating a significant anniversary – 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more years in Catholic education [HERE](#) by June 30, 2021.
- Submit a school celebrating a significant anniversary – 50, 60, 70, 75, 80, or beyond, in 5-year increments, [HERE](#) by June 18, 2021.



GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**MaryRose
Depperschmidt
Religion Teacher
St. Mary's Ryken
High School,
Leonardtown, MD
since 2014**



"Everywhere she goes, she brings light and joy into the room. Her students adore her, and she genuinely cares for each of them. On top of being an excellent teacher and scholar (she is almost finished with her Master's degree), she is also a woman of deep prayer. I often see her attending daily mass or praying quietly in the Chapel at Ryken. No doubt she knows that the very heart of ministry is prayer." - Fr. Scott Woods, Chaplain, St. Mary's Ryken High School

**Kathy
Gardenhour
Second Grade
Teacher
Holy Redeemer
School, College
Park, MD since
2018**



"But what I think makes her most deserving, is her tireless dedication to, and care of, all those students whom she encounters personally, and now even virtually. Regardless of who you are, whatever struggles you might be going through, whatever challenges you might represent, however much you truly are in need as student, with Mrs. Gardenhour, you will always know that you belong. That in her classroom, whether you sit there at your desk, or you are connected through a screen, you have found your place, you belong to a community: most of all, that you are cared for and loved." - Rev. Mark L. Smith, Pastor, Holy Redeemer Church

**Christine Green
Middle School
Teacher &
Assistant Principal
Our Lady of Mercy
School, Potomac,
MD since 1988**



"Christine is committed to academic excellence and Catholic identity. Her classroom is a model of calm joy. The younger faculty often turn to her for advice and mentoring. She is generous to all. I pray this letter helps in your discernment because she is most deserving." - Rev. William D. Byrne, Bishop, Diocese of Springfield

**JoAnne Hall
Computer
Teacher, Media
Specialist, School
Admin & Leader
St. Bartholomew
School, Bethesda,
MD since 1997**



"During this time, we have seen an incredible shift in computer sciences and the role of technology in our world. As our computer teacher, she has been able to adapt and address student readiness, expand access to technology, and help foster genuine interest in science and technology to ensure that it becomes a core component of every student's education. From helping our youngest learners gain the basic technology literacy to exposing our middle school students to programming and computer sciences, she ensures students of all ages have a chance to pursue these opportunities in our school." - Rev. Mark D. Knestout, Pastor, Saint Bartholomew Church

**William Johnson,
Jr.
Middle School
Teacher &
Assistant Principal
Saint Columba
School, Oxon Hill,
MD since 1983**



"Mr. Johnson, Jr. has been an important part of the St. Columba School for the past 36 years. Although Mr. Johnson is not a parishioner of St. Columba Catholic Church (he is a parishioner of Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro, MD) he serves and supports the parish and school as servant leader role model to our staff and students. He shares his faith in various ways. For example, he is the driving force behind our weekly Stations of the Cross Prayer Service during Lent and Living Rosary during the month of October. He not only coordinates the service, but also involves our students in preparation of the Liturgy of the Word during school Mass. He is also an important leader in the preparation of the Confirmation candidates." - Father Gary T. Villanueva, Pastor, Saint Columba Catholic Church



GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Emily Kogut
First Grade
Teacher
Saint Mary's
Catholic School,
Landover Hills, MD
since 2017



"This year, when teachers, students and parents had to learn and adapt to the remote learning system, Ms. Kogut has shown extraordinary adaptability while maintaining academic rigor, excellent class participation, and positive student morale. Ms. Kogut has also been a great supporter to the school community as she has mentored other teachers and paraeducators enhancing their teaching practices as well as helping them navigate the current difficulties. Ms. Kogut has always exemplified the servant leader model as she demonstrates greatness by serving others with a cheerful heart." - Rev. Evelio Menjivar, Pastor, Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Kristen Kullberg
Middle School
Teacher,
Instructional
Coach & School
Leader
Sacred Heart
Bilingual School,
Washington, DC
since 2008



"Kristen has been teaching at Sacred Heart for fourteen years and presently assists the students and their families in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Kristen is a certified Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and frequently helps during the Wednesday School Mass. Kristen has the difficult and delicate task of imparting 8th grade English to students who predominately, more than 85%, come from homes where English is a second language. Her excellence in teaching prepares all the students to enter High School with confidence and proficiency in English, human relations and multicultural skills." - Fr. Emilio Biosca Agüero, Pastor, Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish

Mary Pollock
First Grade
Teacher
Saint Jerome
Academy,
Hyattsville, MD
since 2010



"Mrs. Pollock is currently a 1st Grade Home Room teacher and does an excellent job in motivating her students to become lifelong learners. She has been a dedicated member of the teaching staff of St. Jerome for eleven years. She has helped lead a knitting class for interested students. She has been a very active member of the Institute of Classical Education and has presented frequently at their conferences." - Rev. Scott Hahn, Pastor, Saint Jerome Catholic Church

Kristen Weinman
Pre-K and Religion
Teacher
Saint Thomas
More Catholic
Academy



"I am pleased to recommend Ms. Kristen Weinman for the Golden Apple Award. Ms. Weinman has been a part of our St. Thomas More community for twenty years. Over her tenure she has distinguished herself as a catechist, educator and witness to her Catholic faith. In her capacity as catechist she is responsible for the faith formation and religious education of scholars in several other grades. Undoubtedly, she serves as a great role model to fellow educators, our scholars and their families." - Rev. Raymond Moore, Pastor, Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

Kathleen
Weslowski
Second Grade
Teacher &
Assistant
Principal
St. Mary's School
of Piscataway,
Clinton, MD since
2000



"As the long-time 2nd grade teacher in our proudly Catholic School, she has catechized literally hundreds of children to trust in the mercy of the Lord in the Sacrament of Penance, and to receive and adore him in His Real Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. She has also gone further than above and beyond just teaching: through serving as a Vice-Principal and Admissions Director, through being instrumental in establishing our Pre-K program, and building a new 21st-century Media Center where once there was a dated library. Not only did Kathy help keep all of our current students engaged wherever they were; she increased enrollment-in 2020-in a school in hard-hit Prince George's County." - Rev. Samuel Plummer, Pastor, St. Mary's Church of Piscataway

CARDINAL'S MEDAL RECIPIENTS



2021 Cardinal's Medal Recipients

Jennifer Cuadra

Archbishop Carroll High School

Gabriela Barrera

Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School and Work Study Program

Description:

The Cardinal's Medal is awarded annually, by the Archdiocese of Washington, to a graduating senior from each of the archdiocesan high schools – Archbishop Carroll High School and Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School. The student, selected by the high school president (CEO), exemplifies traits that model solid Christian values that are practiced, a growing Catholic spirituality, and commitment to service as a peer minister. The awardees are recognized because they are a model for other students and faculty, demonstrating a lively Catholic faith, rooted in the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Church. Each year, the medallion is emblazoned with the coat of arms of the current Archbishop of Washington. The Cardinal's Medal, along with a \$1,500 scholarship, is awarded by the Archbishop of Washington (or his designee) at the annual baccalaureate Mass for each school.

CARDINAL'S AWARD RECIPIENTS



2021 Cardinal's Award for Catholic Citizenship

★ The Archdiocese of Washington Cardinal's Award for Catholic Citizenship, is
★ awarded annually by each Archdiocese of Washington Catholic high school to a
★ graduating senior who exemplifies in his or her school and personal life the
★ attributes of Catholic principles and values.

Congratulations to the Cardinal's Award for Catholic Citizenship Recipients!

- **Sadia Bangura** – Bishop McNamara High School
- **Matthew Bonato** – Saint John's College High School
- **Grace Boogaerts** – Brookewood School
- **Dominic Gambogi** – Saint Vincent Pallotti High School
- **Alexandra Kabo** – Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
- **Raymond J. Jenna, Jr.** – Gonzaga College High School
- **Valerie Kuzma** – The Academy of the Holy Cross
- **John Paul Libanati** – Saint Anselm's Abbey School
- **Keelan McGowan** – Connelly School of the Holy Child
- **James Pike** – DeMatha Catholic High School
- **John Shawhan** – Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
- **Nora Sweeney** – Elizabeth Seton High School
- **Elizabeth Trossbach** – Saint Mary's Ryken High School

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Prayer for the End of the School Year

Christ, Teacher and Lord,
Bless all in this school
As we seek to end our year
With the grace you so generously provide.

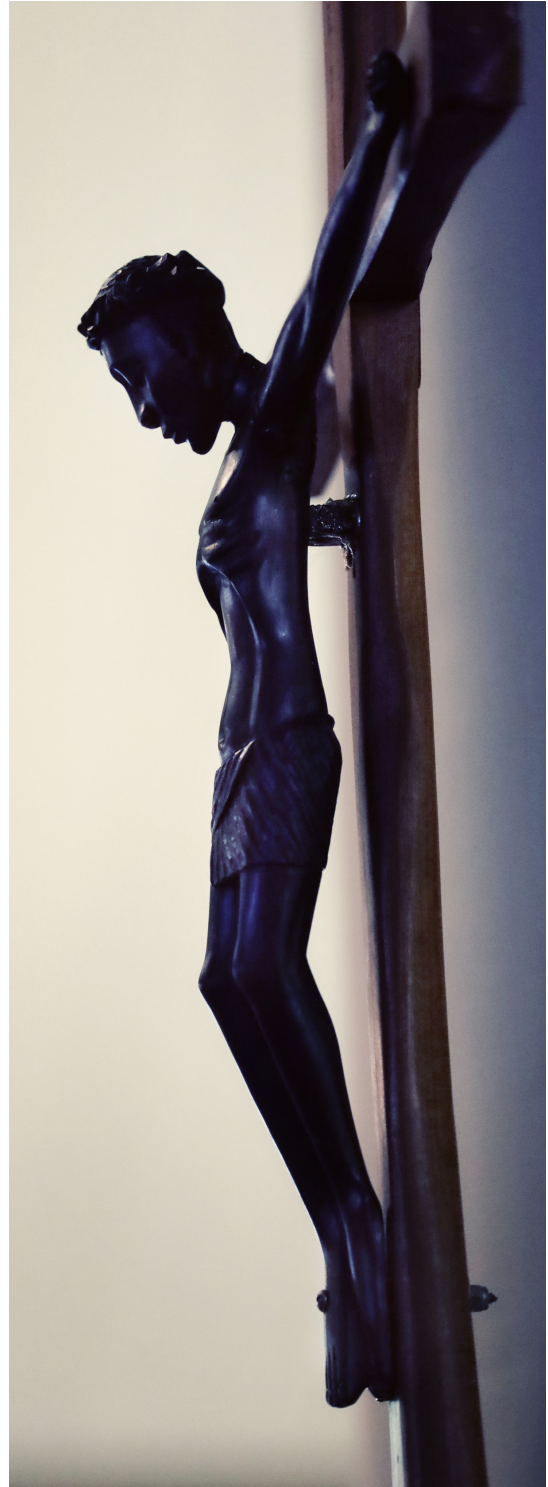
We give thanks for the students
And the faculty, the administrators,
And all who have contributed
To this year of nurturing and growth.

We affirm all the positive moments,
Of insight, of the excitement of learning,
Of accomplishment, of creativity,
Of laughter, of a sense of community.

We recognize the times of struggle,
Of difficult work, of misunderstanding,
Even of failure--we give these
To you for transformation,
So they can become seeds
That will find fertile soil.

As we leave for the summer,
May we take with us
The knowledge that
You will keep us all
In your embrace so
We may rest and be restored
And so we can continue in
The ongoing discovery
Of your Love.

Amen



CATHOLIC IDENTITY



Living Catholic Session

June 21 from 9:00–4:00 at St. Michael School, Ridge, MD

The objective of the formation workshop is to present the truths of the faith and help prepare employees to share the faith with others. New employees must complete a Living Catholic workshop within 2 years from the date of hire. Pastors and principals should schedule Living Catholic training through the Office of Catechesis, by emailing livingcatholic@adw.org.

Employees looking for an open Living Catholic session, please register [HERE](#)



Culminating retreat for Catechist Certification

Two offerings:

Saturday, July 31, at St. Peter- Waldorf from 10–3:30

Or

Monday, August 16, at Our Lady of Victory School from 10:00–3:30

Teachers must have completed all Faith Foundations courses and Living Catholic session in order to attend the retreat. Contact Kately Javier in the Office of Catechesis javierk@adw.org to register.

MARKETING & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

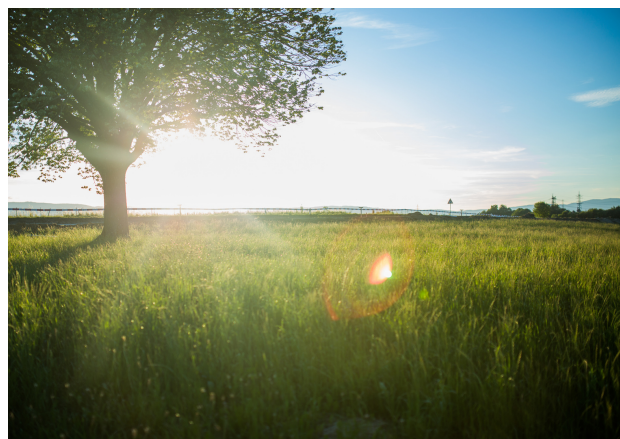


2021-2022 School Year Calendars and End of the Year Gifts

The CSO will distribute 2021-2021 ADW Academic Calendars and end of the year gifts to all ADW elementary school by next week. If you have any questions or would like to request more copies, please contact Barbara Quisquinay at quisquinayb@adw.org.

Hispanic Enrollment Initiative Survey 2021

Do not forget to complete the Hispanic Enrollment Initiative Survey 2021 provided at the Marketing Committee meeting before summer vacation. This should be completed by principals or designees. If you need the link to do so please contact Barbara Quisquinay at quisquinayb@adw.org



Summer Programs 2021

Click on this [link](#) to view available opportunities .

If you want to add your school to the list, email details to Anne Dillon, dillona@adw.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Opening of Schools Mass (Virtual) – August 30, 2021

We invite ALL of our schools to join, and are pleased that his Eminence, Archbishop Cardinal Gregory, will celebrate Mass and recognize significant anniversaries of our wonderful schools, educators, and staff, as well.

As is customary, we request that you submit names of those employees (educators and school staff) who are celebrating a significant anniversary – 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more years in Catholic education! The service years from ANY (arch)diocese are included. Please submit the names of your employees [HERE](#). Please be sure to include an email address for each name, to aid in communication with honorees during the summer. We ask that you submit names by **June 30, 2021**.

In addition, if your school is celebrating a significant anniversary – 50, 60, 70, 75, 80, or beyond, in 5-year increments – please click [HERE](#) to submit information to receive a Papal blessing, celebrating your school's continual and dedicated mission to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Washington. Please submit your school by **Friday, June 18, 2021**, to enable our office to secure the Papal blessing.



Final End of Year Average

Principals looking for support enabling *End of Year grades* in the TeacherPlus grade book, please email Jeremy McDonald at mcdonaldj@adw.org.



Scantron Labels

With the full use of Scantron, the Catholic Schools Office will again support labels for Scantron results. The labels will be identical to previous years and include two sets for each 7th-grade student. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy McDonald, mcdonaldj@adw.org.