

Superintendent's Report
August 2008
for
Archbishop José H. Gomez, STD
and
Catholic Schools Council of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

Sr. Carla Marie Lusch, SSND, Superintendent

Department of Catholic Schools Staff--The following staff members were hired this summer to serve in the positions listed: Beverly Lejeski (Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Assessment); David Nixon (Director of School Finance); Lottie Lopez (Secretary to Joann Gawlik and David Nixon). Elisa Estrada, formerly secretary to the Associate Superintendents, is now serving as secretary to Sr. Carla. The interview process is continuing for one final, permanent secretary.

John Paul II Catholic High School reached a milestone in August when the Schertz City Council gave approval for the re-zoning of the land to be used for the new high school. The planning committee continues to work with the architect and fundraising feasibility firm. The School Council will meet with Archbishop Gomez on August 29th and will then meet with the Archbishop and pastors of the parishes near the school site on September 5th.

Our Lady of Grace Academy is continuing the process of working toward being recognized as a Catholic school. A parent survey was conducted in the parishes of the Pleasanton Deanery. Response was extremely positive from parents wishing to send children to a Catholic school and those willing to financially support a Catholic school. The Board of Directors will make a presentation to the Catholic Schools Council at its November meeting.

The University of Dayton Lalanne Program has provided four teachers who will spend two years teaching at St. Gerard High School, St. Leo the Great, and St. Mary Magdalen. The young women are: Casey Hart, Emily Wagner, Gabby Estrada, and Anita Lukey.

The University of Notre Dame's ACE Program has increased its number of teachers and schools this year. In addition to two teachers at St. Paul and two teachers at St. John Berchmans, David Messer has joined the staff at Blessed Sacrament School. Katherine Petersen and Elizabeth Staten will begin their first year of Service at Holy Cross.

Joann Gawlik, Associate Superintendent

New Principal Orientation meetings were held on July 17th and 18th. As the school year begins, the Associate Superintendents will make quarterly visits to the newly appointed principals.

The following principal appointments have been made:

- Andrew Iliff – John Paul II High School, Schertz
- Dr. Jose Ramos – St. Louis School, Castroville
- Jackie Palermo, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Selma

- David Zuber, St. Joseph School
- Deanna Sanchez, St. James School, Seguin
- Sandra Garcia, Notre Dame School, Kerrville
- Maria Casto, Mt. Sacred Heart School

Sacred Heart School, Uvalde is still in the process of conducting a search for a new principal.

TCCED accreditation visits will begin with Our Lady of the Hills on September 21-24. A total of seven schools will have visits this year.

Administrators' Convocation-- August 5th and 6th Fr. David Gutiérrez presented a day of reflection on the teachings and themes of St. Paul and celebrated Mass with the attendees. The year of St. Paul, as proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, will be the theme for our principals this year. The presentations and dialog will continue at each of the upcoming principals' meetings. On August 6th the principals met for the first meeting of year. Archbishop José Gomez celebrated Mass that included a commissioning and blessing of all attendees for another year of ministry.

New Teacher Orientation – The New Teachers Orientation took place at Antonian College Preparatory High School on August 8, 2008. A total of 159 new teachers attended. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler, who spoke on “Call to Mission – Accountability and Responsibility”. “Mission Called into Action” was presented by Martha Fernandez-Sardina from the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization.

Breakout sessions were:

- “New Teachers in A Catholic Setting”
- “Catholic School Curriculum”
- “Top 10 Essentials for Catholic School Teachers”

The day ended with a commissioning prayer service.

Beverly Lejeski, Associate Superintendent

Federal Programs-Meetings have taken place with both Federal Programs Coordinators from Region 20 and the San Antonio Independent School District to establish support for the 2008-09 school year. The meeting for the principals in the San Antonio Independent School District is scheduled for August 21 at Burbank High School. The Edgewood Independent School District meeting for its area schools will be held on September 17 at the Hoelscher Center.

Staff Development -A meeting at Region 20 on August 20 is scheduled to create technology classes for teachers and principals for this semester. Principals are also being surveyed to determine future staff development sessions to address the instructional challenges of special needs students.

School visits- Introductory school visits have begun to discuss the uniqueness of each campus and to dialogue about their curriculum needs to achieve academic success for all students. School visits will be scheduled beginning in middle September to discuss the principals' goals.

Joyce Horner, Director of School Advancement

Grants submitted: Kenedy Memorial Foundation
Request: Internet Filtering
Burkitt Foundation
Request: Internet Filtering
Pryor Charitable Trust
Request: ACE House repairs
Koch Foundation, Inc.
Request ACE and Lalanne House maintenance and repairs

Endowment Fund values:

Catholic Schools Endowment Fund: **\$2,213,642.11**

Designated Catholic Schools Endowment Fund: **\$1,321,124.82**

Summer Advertising:

Street Banners, Radio Campaign, July and beginning of August: KCCY-100, KXTN and KTSA. PSA on all Univision radio stations Sunday, August 10th. Movie Theatre Advertising, July: Alamo Quarry, Cielo Vista, Northwoods and Live Oak, Our Kids Education Guide, Express-News magazine.

The Catholic Schools Video is complete and has been distributed to our principals and families that have called or emailed requesting information about our Catholic schools.

Hall of Fame and Outstanding Leaders in Catholic Education Nomination Forms

have been distributed to the principals, assistant principals, and pastors with schools. Once the list of PTC presidents and School Council/Board presidents comes in, they will receive a packet, too. The deadline to submit a nomination is September 26th. The event will be held on January 31, 2008 at the OMNI Hotel. The committee will start to meet in September.

Archbishop's Annual Tuition Assistance Appeal checks will not be distributed to the principals until January. Due to the changing the Appeal to February instead of October the distribution of awards has changed. Each school that requested assistance was notified in March on the amount of their award. Most awards are approximately 15% more than they were last year.

Hope for the Future (HFF): \$358,300.00 has been awarded to 255 students. Two students are HFF Adopt-a-Students. Schools with HFF students will receive award checks in October and February.

Birdies for Charity has raised \$1,495.00 from nine donors. All pledge forms and donations must be turned in by September 12th.

Catholic Life will be sponsoring the **Catholic Schools Sweepstakes** again this year. Catholic Life provides the prize, the tickets and the promotional materials. The tickets sell for \$5.00 each. Once the tickets are sold the money stays at the school and stubs are

picked up weekly or biweekly by a Catholic Life representative. This year, we have 24 schools participating in the program.

David W. Nixon, Director of School Finance

The following activities have been part of my first month's tasks:

- Presented the reasons for school budgeting at the new principals meeting
- Began working with struggling schools on accounts receivable problems and software solutions.
- Began comparing new school enrollment to teacher staffing from a budgeting/financial point of view. If struggling schools are overstaffed for their enrollment we need to discuss this with them early.

Parish pastors with struggling schools will be presented the option of asking for direct gifts for their schools by advertisements in their parish bulletins, with a phone contact at the Department of Catholic Schools

At the end of September, all schools will submit their revised budgets for the current school year and analysis will begin.

SEVIS Program

Foreign students enrolled at our Catholic schools need to be enrolled in the government database called SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Identification System). We accomplish this for our member schools which have foreign students.

AIAL

The Archdiocesan Interscholastic Athletic League is holding four organizational meetings (Executive Board, New Coaches, New Athletic Directors, and General Meeting of Principals and ADs) during the month of August.

Asbestos Hazard Compliance

Our three year contract with our Asbestos Hazard compliance firm ended at the close of last school year. Astex Environmental Services, Inc. has been our asbestos contractor since 2001, and has performed the service well and at reasonable cost to the Archdiocese. The proposed new three year contract with Astex will be submitted to the Archdiocesan School council for its approval at the August meeting.

Garry Schnuriger, Technology Report

Educational Technology -

It has been a productive summer. Eight of our schools reported receiving grants for technology. The Department of Catholic Schools placed several orders for computers and software. By consolidating the purchasing, the schools were able to secure better prices, standardize equipment / software resulting in more technology that is easier to manage.

Internet Filtering -

Internet filtering has become a necessity for our schools and libraries. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), requires that any school or library accepting government funding, including E-rate, must provide a filtering solution. Concerns for internet safety are increasing daily. Even schools without government funding, while not required by law, need to provide a filtering.

The Department of Catholic Schools has applied for a grant for internet filtering. If approved the grant will be used to purchase a filtering appliance for as many as 20 of our schools. With a financial partnership with the schools and other resources, Phase I of an internet safety initiative will begin.

Integration of Technology into the Curriculum -

The Department of Catholic Schools continues assisting the schools with technology integration. In collaboration with Region 20, workshops will be hosted to train teachers to utilize technology across the curriculum.

Technology Proficiency -

The Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED) requires that all teachers in our Catholic schools be proficient in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentation software. Continued efforts are being made to provide schools with a means to evaluate teachers and staff. With an accurate evaluation tool the schools will be able to determine where their training needs lie. The rise in proficiency will not only aid technology integration but also productivity.