



Our Mission Statement: The administration, faculty, and staff of Holy Trinity Catholic School embrace each child enrolled at our school as a unique creation of God with spiritual, intellectual, and social needs and gifts. We instill in our students the teachings of the Catholic Church, which are rooted in the Gospel, and model these teachings by forming authentic relationships with parents, faculty, staff, parishioners, and others in our community. We empower our students to become active and creative 21st century learners equipped with skills to thrive in today's changing world. We imbue them with a sense of understanding and compassion for others, and nurture them to be advocates for Catholic social teaching according to the Gospels of Jesus Christ.

The season of Lent is a Catholic liturgical season consisting of forty days not including the Sundays during Lent; only weekdays of fasting, prayer, and penitence beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday. Lent ends at this time because the Triduum is a liturgical season; the shortest of all seasons in the Church. The Triduum is a three-part celebration beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continuing with The Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and concluding with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The Triduum ends with the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence for adults 18 until 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The abstinence from eating meat are from age 14 and older.

Lent begins on Wednesday, the 6th of March and will continue until the 18th of April. In preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord, the students will be attending Stations of the Cross and can receive the sacrament of reconciliation. The Middle School students will have a Seder Meal.

Lent as a Family: Here are a few suggestions for the Lent to enhance your families time together in this season. If your family celebrates fasting during this season, talk to your kids about why the family isn't eating meat on Friday. It is customary that only people who are 18-59 are expected to fast throughout Lent, although some families do decide to include everyone in the meat-fast on Fridays or at least on Good Friday. First, it's an act of self-denial. A little self-denial can really teach virtue! Secondly, it's meant to unify the church with the poor, both locally and throughout the world. Lent has always been a time when individual families, churches and schools collect money for the poor and for missionaries who serve locally and abroad. Giving up meat each week allows families to put that extra money towards this offering. Kids tend to love collecting & saving change for a church offering if they know that this money will be helping others in the world!

Another way we can instruct our children to "fast" during their Lenten journey, is by encouraging them to be more loving to family and friends. Fasting from arguing with siblings or talking back to parents for 40 days will lead to good practices which we hope will last past Easter Sunday!

Lent is a time when prayer with family is essential as we truly prepare for Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I encourage you to attend Stations of the Cross together. St Malachy will be holding Living Stations of the Cross. Check the parish website for the dates at RockenRoCatholics.org. Attending the services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, your family can take part in these services and then discuss our forgiveness of sins through the amazing love and sacrifice of our Lord; once again in preparation to celebrate His Resurrection in three days!

Attached you will find a Lenten Family calendar. We will be reading the daily sacrifice or activity during morning prayers. My hope is that each family member will use this calendar and discuss it.

An Exciting New Beginning: At the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, Holy Trinity Catholic will join with St Malachy to form a new school serving our parish grouping. The new school is to be known as Archangel Gabriel School with grades K– 8 being housed at the current site of HTS and the Preschool will be held at the current St Malachy site. Details regarding the new school still need to be determined and will be worked out in coming months.

In preparation of the joining of the 2 schools, we have planned several events this month for the school families in an effort to begin the new school year successfully.

On Sunday, March 17th school families from both schools are invited to an afternoon of fellowship. This event will begin by praying the rosary at 3:00pm at Holy Trinity Church followed by an ice cream social as well as school tours for new families.

On March 19th, the students and teachers in 5-8th grades from St Malachy School will be bused to HTS at 9:00am and eat lunch together. On March 22nd students and teachers in grades K-4th will visit the school in the morning. This will provide the students with the opportunity to meet each other as well as the teachers from both schools.

There will be a Parent Preschool Informational Meeting and tour at the St Malachy site on Sunday, March 24th. The meeting and tour for the 4-year parents will begin at 1:00 pm – 1:45pm and the 3-year-old parent meeting and tour will begin at 2:00pm – 2:45pm. Some of the current preschool teachers may be available and will discuss the curriculum.

While the news of the merger may be difficult for many, we must be confident in the wisdom of this decision and remain optimistic about the future of Catholic school education in this area. Holy Trinity has always been a warm and inviting school and it is important to welcome the families from St Malachy. They are not only merging but they are moving to a new location. Together, parents, teachers, students, and administration must come together to create a new school culture. A culture which fosters Catholic identity, service to others and respect. Next year, you will have the opportunity to meet new families and share ideas as we collaboratively continue building a strong and vibrant Archangel Gabriel Catholic School.

Middle States Accreditation Visiting Team: The Middle States visiting team will be here from March 5th through March 8th for the school visit. We are very excited show our amazing school to the team. The school will host a dinner on Tuesday evening for the team, faculty, and the stakeholders. There will be a program featuring our 8th graders and the choir.

What is Middle States? Middle States is a private organization composed of schools, colleges and universities with 2,700 members, in 50 states and 100 countries.

What is Accreditation? Accreditation is a formal means of certifying the integrity and quality of schools, colleges and universities. Accreditation takes place within a framework of standards that consider many aspects of the institution, including mission, academic programs, faculty, student services, finances, facilities and more. All colleges and universities must have accreditation, and many schools have it as well. While accreditation is a voluntary process is required by the Diocese of peer review (that means people from other colleges review our work to see if it meets the standards), accreditation is also highly regulated by the U.S. Department of Education as well as states. Holy Trinity Catholic has been accredited by the Middle States Commission since 1990.

How does Middle States accreditation work? Every seven years, our school prepares as a self-study, which is a major review of all facets of the organization. You can read Holy Trinity's self-study on our website. The self-study takes about two years to complete. All faculty and staff have participated in the preparation of the self-study through their work in planning and assessment, writing reports and providing data about outcomes of our work. Mrs. Jablonski and Mrs. Smith served as the Internal coordinators.

What does the Middle States visiting team do? A visiting team composed of professionals from other schools like us come for a visit after we submit our self-study. The team of 5 members spends three days at the school meeting with faculty, staff, parents and students to discuss the self-study report and to assess our compliance with the standards. This is a very collegial process! The team does not come as “inspectors general” but rather as peers who are trying to help us to keep improving.

When will we know the results? We will know the general outlines of the team report by the end of the team visit on Friday, March 8. We will receive a formal letter from Middle States at the end of June. The team may have suggestions and recommendations to improve our work here at Holy Trinity; but in general, we do expect our accreditation to be reaffirmed, as it has been in each cycle since 1990.

Please join me in thanking all the faculty and staff, the Stakeholders on the HTS Middle States team and internal coordinators Clara Jablonski and Darci Smith, for their very hard work and dedication to the ongoing processes of planning of our Self-Study report to Middle States. Members of the Holy Trinity Middle States Team are Loretta Adams, Bonnie Amendola, Nancy Baker, Debbie Catanzarite, Terry O'Rourke Donoghue, Mary Ann Jones, Dawn Lecker, Greg Leininger, Deacon Lee Miles, Fr. Alan Morris, Nancy Parker, Chad Reilly, Michelle Roun, Sarah Smith, Sarah Stuckeman, and Leslie Williams.

ACRE Testing: Our 5th and 8th grade classes will be taking the ACRE test on The ACRE Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE) which helps to evaluate the faith knowledge of students in Catholic schools. ACRE provides questions related to religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions. It measures religious beliefs as it relates to God, the Church, Liturgy and Sacraments, Revelation, Life in Christ, and Church History. The test will be administered to students in grades 5th and 8th on March 13th.

Tigerthon Co- Chair Needed: HTS is looking for someone to take over the administrative duties for the TIGERTHON fundraiser. **Most of the volunteer hours can be done at home.** This position will be approximately 20 + volunteer hours with hours beginning in October and ending in March/April. Additional hours can be earned if you choose by helping on event days. There is a very detailed timeline of action items provided to make sure all duties are completed.

Diane Iacchetti has chaired this fundraiser for 7 years. Diane is extremely organized and has created a binder with copies of all memos and documents and has files saved on a flash drive for quick reference. While Diane will be leaving HTS at the end of this school year, because her youngest son Marco will be completing his 8th grade year, she is willing to mentor the person who is interested in taking over her role. If you are interested in this position, please contact Diane at iacchettigang@yahoo.com or 412-716-5193.

Duties of Co Chair: Work with Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Ruggiero on the timeline of all events and important dates related to the fundraiser, update existing Kickoff packet information and any other memos of necessary instructions, update existing instructions for all teachers, communicate with office for web blast information ,with Event Co-Chair (Melissa Woessner) to make sure events are organized, communicate with the Volunteer Co-Chair (Char Osso) to make sure volunteers are notified for tasks, communicate with database manager (Dick White) for any database issues.

Camp Invention is back at Holy Trinity: It is hard to believe, but summer is right around the corner and Camp Invention will return in June. Camp Invention will be held at HTS the week of June 24th-28th, 2019 with programming that will feature Innovation Force, Deep Sea Mystery, Farm Tech and DIY Robot.

Register now at HolyTrinityCampInvention.org as a returning Alumni to receive \$25 off the base price. This discount will expire on March 22, 2019. Use the promo code INNOVATES25 or call [800-968-4332](tel:800-968-4332) to register as well. If you have already registered, I just want to say thank you! I truly appreciate your support of Camp Invention here at Holy Trinity. This years activities include

Innovation Force® Children team up with the Innovation Force, a group of NIHF Inductees who have been transformed into superheroes, to battle the evil Plagiarizer, a supervillain who is out to steal the world's ideas. As children create a device to retrieve the stolen ideas, they learn about the importance of collaboration and patents. <https://youtu.be/ZKfeVKKopfo>

Deep Sea Mystery™

Children embark on a research adventure at sea, but soon find themselves stranded on an island. Using lessons and advice from NIHF Inductees, children work in teams to invent island-survival tools and underwater equipment and navigate their way back home. <https://youtu.be/2FG8goC0F8>

Farm Tech™

Children manage their own farm as they learn the basics of running a business. With the assistance of Bot-ANN-E, a programmable robot, campers learn fundamental coding techniques to maximize their time and profits and perform mock DNA experiments to check the health of their cattle. <https://youtu.be/xWPIUK-iZAw>

DIY Orbot™

Children explore frequency, circuit boards, motors and gears as they use real tools to reverse engineer a remote-controlled DIY Orbot. Throughout the week, campers will adapt their DIY Orbot to perform increasingly challenging tasks from sports to art. <https://youtu.be/dZhexiaPAs0>

If you have not registered yet, is there anything I can do to help you with the registration process? If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

8th Grade Basketball Recognition



Holy Trinity School held its 8th Grade Basketball Recognition Night on February 15th in the school gym. The students along with their parents were introduced as they walked through a balloon lined walkway and had a family picture taken. Eighth grade recognition was followed by basketball games played by the varsity girls and the varsity boys. A reception was held for the athletes, parents and coaches after the games. Pictured are 8th graders Gianni Domenico, Jimmy Gaffney, Marco Iacchetti, Mason Moore, Billy Fryer, Lorin Planinsic, Luca Michnowicz, Joey Leininger, Stephen Baker, Kyle Janas, Collin Cimino, Sierra Abbott, Sage Sonnett, Natalie Krulac,, Evie Minzer, and Victoria Wegrzynowicz.



OUR AMAZING KIDS

Holy Trinity Catholic School Honor Roll January 2019

Holy Trinity Catholic School proudly announces our Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter. All students in grades 6th – 8th can earn a place on the quarterly Honor Roll by meeting the following criteria.

Honors: Quality point average of 3.25 – 3.74

High Honors: Quality point average of 3.75 – 4.0

Congratulations to our students in grades 6-8 who earned a place on the HTS Honor Roll!

8A: High Honor: Stephen Baker, Lily Barbisch, Alan Betten, Tyler Gaffney, Corinne Ludwick, Kate Mickle, Danny Miller, Evelyn Minzer, Clare Mulvay, Olivia Mulvay, Lorin Planinsic and Sage Sonnett.

8A: Honor: Sierra Abbott, James Gaffney, Samuel Gaffney, Hunter Gorsuch, Marco Iacchetti, Kyle Janas Allison Weaver.

Extra Effort Award Damian Davila

8B: High Honor: Kara Bridge, Collin Cimino, Isaac Huang, Karolina Lucas, Nathaniel Schmid, Amanda Strub, Olivia Wegrzynowicz, Victoria Wegrzynowicz, Alexis Zurbola

8B: Honor: Isabella Cardimen, Gianni Domenico, Vincent Frank, Christopher Ireland, Joseph Leininger, Luca Michnowicz, Mason Moore, Caiden Ohrn, Kyle Rooney, Isabelle Seibel

7A High Honor: Eliza Bell, Bianca Golomb, Samantha Sawayda, Julia Seng

7A Honor :Luke Baker, Dominic Bodek, Maria Cicchino, Ryan Saginaw, Michael Smith

7B High Honor: Sofia Davoli, Jenna Gardner, Aaron Williams

7B Honor: Madeline Ashbaugh, Reighan Bean, Anthony D'Orazio, Julian Myron, Marie Pigoni, Contessa Tripodi.

6A High Honor: Sean Frosell, Chloe Hornyak, Riley Lecker, Joelle Ludwick, Matthew Mickle, Luke Miller

6A Honor Roll: Henry Barbisch, Carrie Betten, Jack Marcello, Corinna Martella, Liam McAndrews, Natalie Paluso, Ava Tournay, Hannah Zurbola

6B High Honor: Tommy Butts, Sarah Buzzard, Josie Einloth, Ashlyn Gill, Gianna Kennelly, Angelina Osso, Tyler Sidhom, and Bailey Ye

6B Honor: Lydia Bartlett, Mia Crofford, Tanner Gorsuch, John Haseleu, Alexandra Loehlein, Rachael Lucas

The Hundredth Day of School: Students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades celebrated the 100th day of school by making hats and using creative ways to count to and celebrate the number 100. Kindergarten marched around the school counting 100 steps. Both Kindergarten and 1st grade went on a treasure hunt looking for 100 Hershey kisses hidden in their classrooms. Students in both 1st and 2nd grades prepared a special snack by adding 10 pieces each of 10 different snack items to their recipe. They shared the snacks with their prayer partners in the middle school. 2nd grade made a creative drawing out of the number 100 and wrote an essay about what their lives will be like when they are 100 years old.



Students in 1st grade completed an animal research report on an animal of their choice and created a diorama as part of their science unit on habitats. Each 1st grade student had to classify the animal, sketch the animal, list the animal's physical characteristics, and provide three interesting facts about the animal that they chose to research. They gave oral reports to their classmates, and to students from Kindergarten and 2nd grade.



Holy Trinity School students Melaina Merlo, Clare Mulvay, and Olivia Wegrzynowicz created a drive to knit beanie hats for newborn babies in Chimbote, Peru as part of their Girl Scout Silver Award project. The Diocese of Pittsburgh has on-going efforts to support the Chimbote Mission, and so the girls were familiar with the needs there. Beginning six months ago, Clare's grandma taught the girls how to crochet the beanie hats for newborns. Parishioners at Holy Trinity Parish, family, friends, women from the Park United Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, and the other members of Girl Scout Troop 55246-Natalie Krulac, Corinne Ludwick, Evie Minzer, Olivia Mulvay, Isabelle Seibel, and Victoria Wegrzynowicz- also learned to crochet the hats. In total, 759 beanie hats were made for the Maternidad de Maria maternity hospital. They will be delivered during the spring and summer months.



As part of Catholic Schools Week, students in Kindergarten through 8th grade met with their prayer partners to make a spiritual bouquet for the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church. Each prayer partner pair made and decorated a paper flower and chose a prayer or small sacrifice that they would each do for the members of Holy Trinity church. They wrote the prayer or little sacrifice on their flower and added it to large paper bouquet assembled by the school for display in the church narthex. The prayer partner program is on-going throughout the school year and matches middle and intermediate school students with those in the primary grades. It enables the older students to provide both social and spiritual mentoring.



Congratulations to 7th grade student, Contessa Tripodi, Holy Trinity School's spelling bee winner. Contessa won her classroom bee and advanced to the school-wide bee with other winners from 6th through 8th grade. She will represent Holy Trinity School at the local area Western Pennsylvania Spelling Bee on March 9 at Robert Morris University. The local event is part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee competition.

Contessa won the Holy Trinity School competition by correctly spelling the word "clavicle." The runner-up was 8th grade speller, Hunter Gorsuch. Other bee participants include Lily Barbisch, John Haseleu, Isaac Huang, Corinne Ludwick, Kate Mickle, and Danny Miller.



Fifth through eighth grade students participated in the school level National Geographic Geobee at Holy Trinity School. The National Geographic GeoBee is an annual competition designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. The National Geographic GeoBee includes three levels of competition; school, state, and national. Schools conduct a GeoBee and name a school champion. The school champion takes a proctored online qualifying test and the top 100 ranked students in each state qualify to represent their school at the state level GeoBee competition. State champions then travel to National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., to compete in the national championship.

Caiden Ohrn, 8th grade student, is Holy Trinity's school winner and he will now compete in the on-line state competition. 7th grader, Aaron Williams, was the second-place winner and Elise Hornyak, 5th grader, finished third. James Baker, Alan Betten, Dominic Bodek, Sean Frosell, and Tyler Sidhom also participated in the school-level GeoBee.



Science Bowl: Many of the 4th and 5th grade HTS students participated in the Science Bowl held at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History on January 28, 2019. The Science Bowl is an academic competition for fourth and fifth graders. The fourth and fifth graders competed in four different challenges. Most of the schools that are involved in this academic competition are from public schools who have gifted programs. Schools participating in this event included: Montour, Moon, Trinity, Steel Valley, Saint Philips, Sto-Rock and Holy Trinity. The event is sponsored by the AIU.

The team of Piper White, Lydia Wegrzynowicz, Norah Latouf, and Ava Domenico placed 2nd in the competition. There were two other teams in the competition graders Isaac Jones, Michael Pigoni, John Cavicchia, Gavin Lugaila and Ryan Bridge, Lindsey Sperandeo, Danica Nauman, and Aiden Curry.

