

# Catch-Up with the Council

*A publication of the Chester County Advisory Council for Elementary Education*

October 2025 edition







## Mrs. Katherine Reinhardt



Mrs. Katherine Reinhardt is the new principal of Saint Maximilian Kolbe School, bringing with her two decades of dedicated experience in Catholic education. She is deeply committed to fostering a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment where every student

can thrive. Mrs. Reinhardt believes in building strong partnerships grounded in shared faith and supportive collaboration, working closely with families, staff, and the broader school community to ensure student success.

Outside of her professional life, Mrs. Reinhardt is happily married and the proud mother of three children. Her oldest child is enrolled in the University of South Florida, and her two younger children attend St. Pius X School. Mrs. Reinhardt's personal and professional values are closely aligned, reflecting her dedication to faith, family, and education. She wants your child to feel successful, capable, and valued.



## Ms. Nicole Pontious



Ms. Nicole Pontious is the new principal of Saints Peter and Paul School. She is honored to join this vibrant and faith-filled community. Ms. Pontious commits to striving and to giving "Hearts to Love and Hands to Serve," embracing the

Saints Peter and Paul School mission to educate, inspire, and serve one another.

For the past fifteen years, Ms. Pontious has dedicated her career to Catholic education within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, working in various roles that have enriched her understanding of leading, teaching and learning.

She believes that every child has the fundamental right to learn and grow in a safe and loving environment, where their unique gifts are recognized and cultivated. Ms. Pontious will work with the dedicated faculty, supportive families, and wonderful students to continue to build a school where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.



## EITC Tax Credit Program

**Redirect your PA Tax Dollars to Support Catholic Education!**

- ✓ Individuals OR Businesses can join our Special Purpose Entity
- ✓ Direct your state tax dollars to support families across the Archdiocese
- ✓ Receive a 90% tax credit for your contribution

Scan the QR code to enroll today!



*The Council works to support the quality, vibrancy and sustainability of our Catholic schools throughout Chester County.*

## Rest in Peace & Thank you

### Sister Marie Carroll Isselmann IHM

The Advisory Council is mourning the death of our Founding Chair who passed away in August 2025. Sister Marie Carroll was in the 66th year of her religious life. Born in Harrisburg, she later moved to St. Philomena Parish in Lansdowne where she finished elementary school before matriculating to West Catholic Girls' High School in Philadelphia.

Sister entered the IHM Community in July 1959, and received her habit and her religious name, Sister Edward Therese, in January 1960. She pronounced her First Vows on January 18, 1962. When the Sisters were given the opportunity to do so, Sister Edward Therese returned to the use of her baptismal name, Sister Marie Carroll.



A woman of great learning, Sister Carroll's academic education included a Bachelor of Science degree from Immaculata University, a Masters from Drexel University in Nutrition and Human Behavior, a Doctor of Education from Rutgers University, and she attended Harvard University's Graduate School of Education MLE Summer Institute for Higher Education Leadership.

Not long after Profession of Vows, Sister Carroll was assigned to teach second grade. She continued teaching and administrating in elementary and secondary schools through 1978.

In the fall of 1981, Sister began her ministry at Immaculata University. Sister Carroll was an exemplary teacher, colleague, mentor, and Sisterly example throughout campus and beyond. In November 1996 through August 2009 Sister Carroll served as the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and later served as the Director of Strategic Initiatives. For the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Sister was the co-chair of the Executive Board for Elementary Catholic Education and a member of the Faith in the Future Board.

Sister Marie Carroll earned the title Pastoral Emeritae, Graduate Nutrition. This title of honor and merit, granted for serving the Community of Immaculata faithfully for a significant period, acknowledged her many outstanding contributions. Sister Carroll continued working diligently, faithfully, and lovingly at her beloved Immaculata until her retirement at the term's end in 2025.

Sister Carroll is survived by, in addition to her IHM Community, her brothers John E. Isselmann and Edward J. Isselmann (Eileen) and her many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Reverend John Burger, C.S.C. was the main celebrant and homilist for Sister Carroll's Funeral Mass on Thursday, August 28, 2025. In Sister Carroll's memory, a donation may be sent to Camilla Hall Nursing Home.

#### Council Chairpersons

Margaret Egan

Dr. Angela Rufo

#### Council Members

Rev. Steven Albero

JoAnn Campbell

Sr. Carol Anne Couchara IHM

Jennifer D'Amelio

Barbara Downing

Erin Downing

Rev. Msgr Joseph Duncan

Sr. Lisa Ann Golden IHM

Carol McCarry

Patricia Welsh

#### Ex officio

Bernadette Dougherty

Anne Marie Fisher

Teresa Dellicompagni

*Have ideas for our next newsletter?*

**Contact**

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**at:**

**Angela.rufo1@gmail.com**

*The Council works in conjunction with The Foundation for Catholic Education to offer the best education possible in our Chester County Catholic schools.*

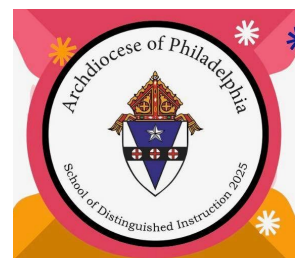
Every year, the Office of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia recognizes

## Archdiocesan Schools of Distinguished Instruction

The schools are recognized for **Growth** and for **Exceeding Potential**.

Recognition for **Growth** was determined by comparing the Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) score from the 2024-2025 school year's testing to the scores from the previous year. These schools were found to have shown a full year's growth in the total mastery of skills at every level tested.

Recognition for **Exceeding Potential** was determined by analyzing the data from the ability testing (InView) and the achievement testing (Terra Nova) in which schools were found to have a majority of the classes meeting or exceeding the potential in all content areas at every level tested with a growth exceeding 80%.



## Congratulations to the elementary schools in Chester County:

### Growth and Exceeding Potential

Saint Joseph and Saint Norbert

### Growth

Holy Family Regional , Saints Peter and Paul , Saints Simon and Jude ,  
Saint Elizabeth , Saint Maximillian Kolbe

### Exceeding Potential

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Patrick

## Save the Date! May 12, 2026

Please check back for more information about our  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing  
[www.FoundationFCE.org/golf](http://www.FoundationFCE.org/golf)



## The Chester County Advisory Council is looking for new members

Join us in fostering a brighter future for Catholic education  
today!

Please contact one of our chairpersons to learn more about  
the requirements for council membership:

Margaret Egan, email: [margaretegan21@gmail.com](mailto:margaretegan21@gmail.com)

Angela Rufo, email: [angela.rufo1@gmail.com](mailto:angela.rufo1@gmail.com)

## Saint Elizabeth Parish School

was selected as part of the inaugural  
2025 Blue Ribbon Schools in an-  
nouncement made by the Pennsylva-  
nia Department of Education (PDE)  
on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

Saint Elizabeth's is the only private  
Catholic school in the state to be rec-  
ognized by the PDE, and the only school named in the  
Exemplary High Performing Category.

Reverend John E. Donia, Pastor of Saint Elizabeth Parish,  
and Mrs. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Principal of Saint Eliza-  
beth Parish School, shared this announcement in a letter  
to their parish and school families. "Being named a  
Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon School is a testament to our  
shared mission to provide a Christ-centered education  
that nurtures the whole child – spiritually, academically,  
and socially. It reflects the countless hours of studying,  
teaching, and praying that take place within our school  
walls and beyond."

