

# Catch-Up with the Council

A publication of the Chester County Advisory Council for Elementary Education

February 2025 edition



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week January 26 – February 1, 2025



Assumption BVM School hosted a prayer walk for the first responders of their community.



Our youngest students at Assumption Academy kickoff CSW with a prayer rally.



St. Agnes middle school students talk with Sister Mary during Career Day.



Saints Simon and Jude School "Celebrated Our Nation" and gave a special blessing to veterans.



St. Patrick School had a Rock Paper Scissors tournament and the money raised was sent to a Catholic high school in CA damaged by the recent fires.

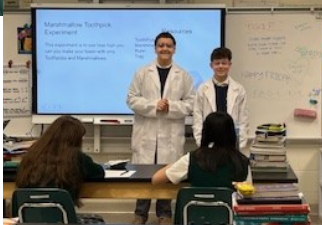
Pope John Paul II School had the honor of hosting Archbishop Perez.



The Religion and Spelling Bee winners are recognized at Holy Family School.



The Saints Peter and Paul 8th grade students teach science lessons to the younger students.



St. Norbert raised \$2,000 during their Nickels for Neighbors drive.



## Congratulations to the 2024-25 Neumann Scholars



The Neumann Scholars Program identifies academically talented eighth grade students in the parochial schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia through an independently administered competitive examination and provides four year scholarships to attend one of fifteen Archdiocesan high schools.

The Neumann Scholars Program is respected and recognized by prestigious colleges and universities locally and nationally, and the students are actively recruited.

Accomplishments since the program's inception in 1995 affirm the high academic caliber of its graduates to date. Some of these accomplishments include:

- 100% college acceptance and attendance
- Over 115 National Merit Finalists
- Over 230 National Merit Commended Students

It is our pleasure to announce that the Chester County elementary schools have five Neumann Scholars this year. Congratulations to:

**Tyler Parthemore** from St. Norbert School, who will attend Archbishop Carroll High School

**Royce Mathew** from St. Elizabeth School, who will attend Bishop Shanahan High School

**Alexandra Heil** from St. Agnes School, who will attend Bishop Shanahan High School

**Elizabeth Lincoln** from Holy Family School, who will attend Pope John Paul II High School

**Sophia Brumbine** from Saints Peter and Paul School, who will attend Bishop Shanahan High School



*Connelly  
Foundation*

## EITC Informational Webinars

Learn how to redirect your state tax dollars to support students in the Archdiocese and receive a 90% Tax Credit with the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.



### Webinar Dates

- Monday, January 13 at 2:00 PM
- Tuesday, January 28 at 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, February 12 at 1:00 PM
- Thursday, February 27 at 3:00 PM
- Monday, March 10 at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, March 25 at 12:00 PM

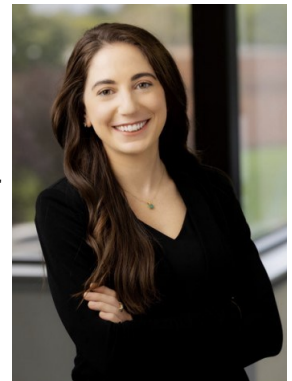


SIGN UP FOR A WEBINAR TODAY

The Foundation for Catholic Education said good-bye to longtime Executive Director, **Kristin Braca**, in January.

The Council wishes to thank Kristin for her many years of service to the Chester county schools. She graciously shared her expertise and enthusiasm with us and we are grateful.

Best wishes for a wonderful future, Kristin.



## Fourth Annual Golf Outing

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

The Union League, Liberty Hill Golf Club

800 Ridge Pike Lafayette Hill, PA

Questions? Contact Monica Boyle  
[MBoyle@FoundationFCE.org](mailto:MBoyle@FoundationFCE.org)

## In Memoriam



Please join us in offering prayers for the Holy Family School Community and the family of **Mr. Bob Peffle**, physical education teacher at the school who passed away on January 4, 2025.

Bob was with Holy Family School for 9 years, and he was never "just" a gym teacher. He taught life lessons, disguised as children's games. He taught that it wasn't about winning or losing, but it was about trying your best and always being respectful of your opponent. When the game is over, we are all still one family.



*Have ideas for our next newsletter?*

*Contact*

*Angela Rufo at:*

[Angela.rufo1@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



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



- \* Do you have an interest in supporting and serving your local Catholic community?
- \* Do you have talents in the areas of marketing, finance, education, legal, engineering or something that would help our schools?
- \* Do you want to engage with others who are committed to Catholic education *and* have fun while doing so?

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)

### Chairpersons

Margaret Egan

Dr. Angela Rufo

### Council Members

Rev. Steven Albero

Sr. Carol Anne Couchara IHM

Jennifer D'Amelio

Barbara Downing

Erin Downing

Rev. Stephen Leva

Lauren Ranalli

Sr. Mary Agnes Ryan IHM

Sam Venuti

Therese Waters

Patricia Welsh

### Ex officio

Bernadette Dougherty

Anne Marie Fisher

Teresa Dellicompagni

*The Council's mission is the promotion of Catholic Education in Chester County by recommending policies, procedures, and plans to foster a close collaboration between parishes and schools.*

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

*The Council is chartered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Executive Board of Elementary Education.*