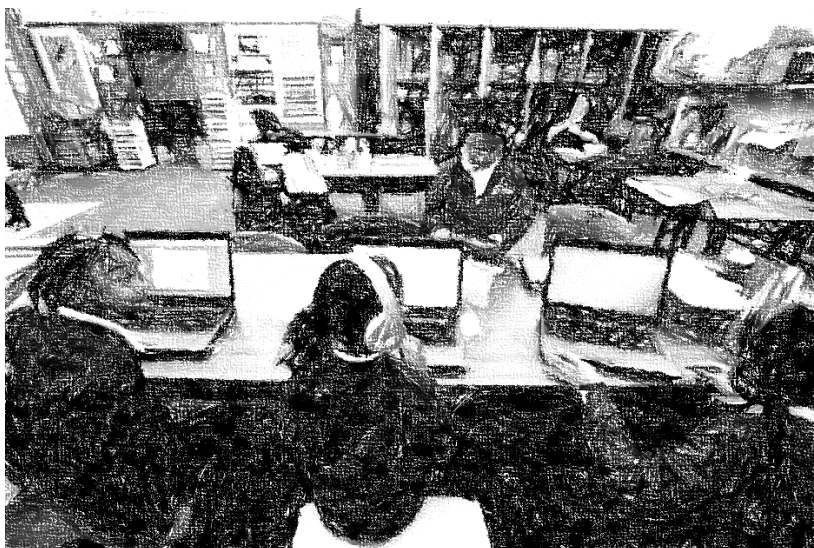




GRACE Newsletter

Spring/Summer Quarter (4th ed.)



Wrapping Up the Oddest Year Ever...

Upcoming Events

June 4th 2021

End of MAP Spring Testing

June 11th 2021

Registration for CEF Due
Registration for GRACE 21-
22 DUE

June 21st 2021

New GRACE TL Meeting
(Virtual)

June 22nd 2021

CEF (Catholic Educator's
Forum) – virtual 9:30-
12:30pm

“Unprecedented.” 2020-21 was full of surprises, and as the greater Seattle area braces itself for yet another phase roll back (with an impending fourth wave of COVID spikes) we are cautiously and gingerly approaching the summer and planning for 2021-22. It was an odd year for many reasons – opening, closing, reopening, etc. however, it was also an amazing year of growth! Our educators have shown resilience and adaptability beyond imagination – the fact that we can all have virtual meetings is a veritable game-changer in the GRACE program.

For 2021-22, the GRACE program will continue to be virtual; although there are few things that can mimic in-person collaboration and team building, the reality is that we need to utilize technology as much as possible as teachers try to rebuild the trajectory of student learning they showed before the spring of 2020. We need to have teachers in the classroom and with students as much as possible next year, so asking you to take three or four full school days to attend GRACE meetings felt wrong for this upcoming year. Also, although it had always been the norm, since the pandemic hit, cramming 150 people into one room for eight hours a day still gives me the heebie-jeebies. I believe we all could use some time to ease back into what “normal” is now.

I invite you to join us again for 2021-22, as the GRACE program will continue to focus on student learning and engagement, utilizing data for student improvement, and teacher support utilizing the CEL 5D. In addition, next year we will be adding some equity work and supporting schools in finding a culturally competent plan that speaks to the needs of their communities. I hope that you join me in continuing our virtual meetings, collaboration opportunities and professional development for 2021-22.

Happenings around the Archdiocese



St. Luke's Catholic School – Shoreline, WA – became the first elementary school in our diocese to be fully certified in the IB program. The IB (International Baccalaureate) is an international rigorous questions-based educational program rooted in research. The focus of an IB school is on fostering critical thinking and building problem-solving skills, while encouraging diversity, international mindedness, curiosity, and a healthy appetite for learning and excellence. Congratulations to all of the St. Luke's teachers for simultaneously completing the IB certification program and the WCEA accreditation cycle in 2021!

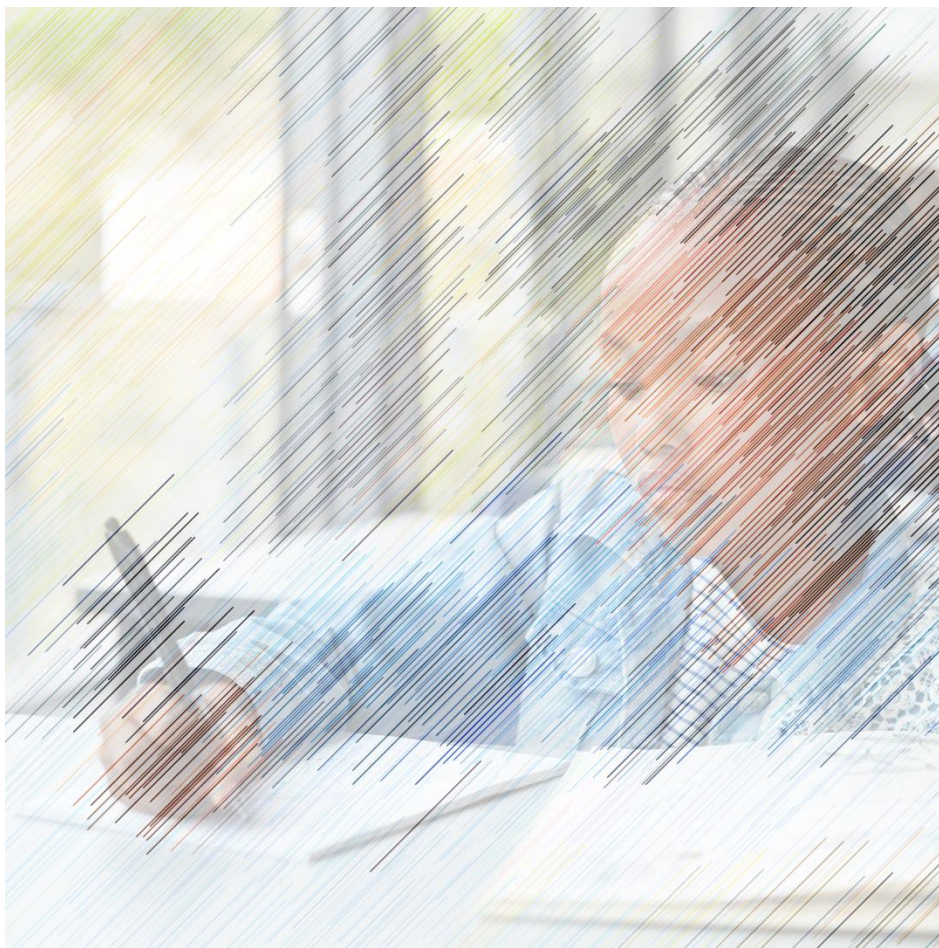
St. Cecilia's Catholic School – Bainbridge Island, WA - Congratulations to GRACE Regional Teacher Leader Emily Cornell, who won the Teacher of the Week award from STAR 101.5 fm. Emily has been an amazing teacher leader and part of the GRACE program for several years and has done so much for the Bainbridge Island community! Check out her giant check in the picture below. Congratulations Emily!

Looking Forward...

Several of our Catholic schools are looking for new leadership – many principal positions are being filled now and many of our GRACE teachers are helping with school transitions. If you have a new leader in your school and would like to talk more about how to support his or her transition into your school, feel free to reach out to Justyna King and we can come up with some great ideas! GRACE teacher leaders usually step forward to help in the leadership team in their schools and I'd be happy to share some ideas of how to welcome, support, and create rapport with a new school leader in your community!



St. Paul's Catholic School – Seattle, WA – with the support of the Office for Catholic Schools and an incredible Seattle community, St. Paul's will be transforming into a full Early Learning Center focusing on supporting 3-4 year old students in the preschool level. Current K-8 families have been welcomed into our neighboring Catholic schools and the community will be celebrating the wonderful work that the school has done with one last celebration taking place on June 6th, 2021. Registration for the "block party" is required and all members of the community are welcome to join as we farewell the current school and usher in a new opportunity for serving our youngest learners!



APPROACHING EQUITY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Every school is on a very different equity journey. We have specifically been focusing on racial equity this year due to the state of our country and the incredible need for racial reforms. For 2021-22, the GRACE program will be utilizing the Courageous Conversations protocol and each GRACE TL will be receiving a copy of Glenn Singleton's *Courageous Conversations about Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools* (2nd ed.) next year.

We want to respect the focus of each school, AND arm every leader with the tools to approach equity subjects with a framework that will help in successfully broaching sensitive subjects.

I believe that every school should spend some time looking at their community make up, celebrating the diversity of their students and communities, and creating welcoming environments for all students.

Our Professional Development and Curriculum Day 2021 was incredibly successful in part because we had equity PD available – it was our most popularly attended session. We look forward to planning more work around this important topic during the 2021-22 school year!

Courageous Conversations Protocol

Four Agreements, Plus One

- Stay Engaged
- Experience Discomfort
- Speak Your Truth
- Expect/Accept Non-Closure
- Understand Intent and Impact

Six Conditions

- Focus on Personal, Local and Immediate
- Isolate Race
- Normalize Social Construction and Multiple Perspectives
- Monitor Agreements and Conditions and Establish Parameters
- Use a “Working Definition” for Race
- Examine the Presence and Role of “whiteness”

From *Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools*. 2nd Edition. Glenn E. Singleton – Pacific Educational Group; Corwin Publishing 2014.

From the Marshall Memo

Children's Books to Combat Anti-Asian-American Prejudice and Hatred

In this *New York Times* feature, Michelle Lee recommends books that help young people understand and work against prejudice and hatred directed at AAIP people. (Click the link below for the cover image and a brief description of each book.)

Children's books:

- *My Footprints* by Bao Phi, illustrated by Basia Tran, age 4-7
- *My Name is Bilal* by Asma Mobin-Uddin, illustrated by Barbara Kiwak, age 6-9
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai, age 9-12
- *Count Me In* by Versha Bajaj, age 9-12
- *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up* by Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi, illustrated by Yutaka Houlette, age 9-12

Teenage nonfiction books:

- *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott, illustrated by Harmony Becker, age 12 and up
- *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial That Galvanized the Asian-American Movement* by Paula Yoo, age 13 and up

Teenage graphic novels:

- *Displacement* by Kiko Hughes, age 12 and up
- *Superman Smashes the Klan* by Gene Luen Yang, art by Gurihiru, age 12 and up
- *Flamer* by Mike Curato, age 14 and up
-

[“Help Your Kids Understand Asian-American Hate”](#) by Michelle Lee in *The New York Times*, April 25, 2021

Did You Know?

Very few countries are home to more Catholics than the Philippines. As of 2010, there were about 76 million Catholics living in the Philippines – roughly the same as the number living in the United States. The two countries have the world's third- and fourth-largest Catholic populations, behind Brazil and Mexico. About eight-in-ten Filipinos (81%) are Catholic; a somewhat smaller share of Filipino Americans (65%) identify as Catholic.



NWEA's MAP Testing – Why Do We Ask Schools to TEST?

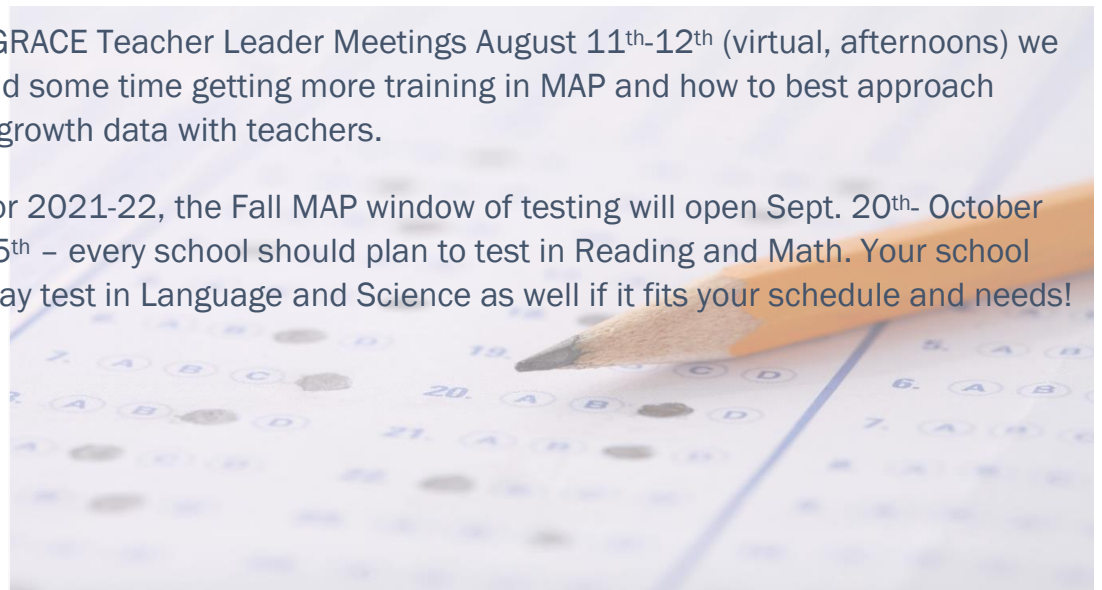
Almost all of our PreK-8 schools are utilizing the MAP Growth Test to get data about their students' learning needs. There are many misconceptions around “standardized” testing and what the purpose of this testing is. Specifically this year, when so much class time was lost due to hybrid, at-home or online teaching, the question of *why MAP this year* was continually asked by parents and some teachers.

The reality is that having a baseline assessment that is created to adapt to each individual student's response is one of the most accurate ways to assess student learning growth. Every teacher has their own assessments that they do in class periodically – and this is a great way to maintain understanding of student progress. However, there is no way to adapt student assessment manually to the needs of each student (well, not practically, anyway). Teachers should embrace both formative and summative assessments to make good decisions on what to teach, on which areas to focus and how to best communicate the learning needs of students.

If that isn't enough to convince someone that MAP testing is worth the hours of class-time spent, then consider the practical needs of standardized testing. Some public school districts require assessments to prove need by Catholic (private) schools when accessing Title funds. Also, when applying for needs-based education grants, some organizations require non-subjective data; the MAP Growth test provides this. And finally, a reason not tied to money, is that the Office for Catholic Schools utilizes school data when we plan for professional development, such as our Lunch and Learns, Professional Development and Curriculum Day, and Catholic Educator's Forum. When we can see that our schools need support in one area of teaching, we can cater our offerings to those needs. Otherwise we are just guessing as to what schools need!

For the GRACE Teacher Leader Meetings August 11th-12th (virtual, afternoons) we will spend some time getting more training in MAP and how to best approach utilizing growth data with teachers.

- For 2021-22, the Fall MAP window of testing will open Sept. 20th- October 15th – every school should plan to test in Reading and Math. Your school may test in Language and Science as well if it fits your schedule and needs!



GRACE MEETINGS & SCHEDULE NOTES:

Friday, June 4th – End of MAP Spring testing window

Friday, June 11th – Registration for GRACE 2021-22 due

Friday, June 11th – CEF Registration DUE

Monday, June 21st – New GRACE teacher leader orientation (virtual) 9:30-11:30am

Tuesday, June 22nd – CEF - Catholic Educator's Forum (virtual) 9:30am-12:30pm

July 2021 – NOTHING. Do NOTHING. Sit on a beach somewhere and veg out the entire month.

Wednesday, August 11th – GRACE Teacher Leader Meeting Part I – 12:30-3:30pm (Virtual)

Thursday, August 12th – GRACE Teacher Leader Meeting Part II – 12:30-3:00pm (Virtual)

Planning for 2021-22?

Instead of three full day offsite meeting throughout the year, the GRACE teacher leaders will be meeting monthly, on the third Tuesday of every month, 3:30-5:30pm. Principals will be invited to join us in October, January, and June (CEF).

2021-22 GRACE Virtual Meeting Schedule:

Sept. 14 – 3:30-5:30pm

October 19 – *with principals* - 3:30-5:30pm

November 16th - 3:30-5:30pm

December – NO MEETING

January 18 – *with principals* -3:30-5:30pm

February 15th -3:30-5:30pm

March 15th -3:30-5:30pm

April 26th (Easter break) -3:30-5:30pm

May 17th -3:30-5:30pm

June 20th – GRACE New TL Meeting – 9:00am-12:00pm

June 21st– Virtual Catholic Educator's Forum – *with principals*

THANK YOU FOR GRACE 2020-2021

On a personal note, this was my first year leading the GRACE program and I have learned so much! Kaitlyn O'Leary created an amazing Professional Learning Community program rooted in data, student achievement strategies, and collaborative teaching efforts. I hope that I did it some justice this year while trying to navigate a virtual world! Please complete the end-of-the-year survey for GRACE and provide me with any feedback on how to continue to improve the program and adjust it to the ever changing landscape of education.

Always feel free to reach out to me if ever you have a need, a question, or just want to share what amazing things are happening in your schools! My goal for 2021-22 is to visit each and every one of you at your school site – let me know when there's something you want me to see in your classroom!

I hope everyone of you has a relaxing Summer break and come back in August feeling rejuvenated, with a special place in your heart for all students... yes, even the difficult ones.

Happy Summer!

Justyna King



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021

#ignitinghope

Shake Us From Our Slumber

by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When our eyes do not see the gravity of
racial justice,
Shake us from our slumber and open our
eyes, O Lord.

When out of fear we are frozen into
inaction,
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.

When we try our best but say the wrong
things,
Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.

When the chaos of this dies down,
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.

When it becomes easier to point fingers
outwards,
Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.

God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.
God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us.
Creator of All People, in your generosity,
Guide Us.

Racism breaks your heart,
break our hearts for what breaks yours, O
Lord.

Ever present God, you called us to be in
relationship with one another and promised
to dwell wherever two or three are
gathered. In our community, we are many
different people; we come from many
different places, have many different
cultures. Open our hearts that we may be
bold in finding the riches of inclusion and
the treasures of diversity among us.

We pray in faith. AMEN.