

# Office for Catholic Schools: High School Newsletter

September 2021  
Issue #1

Happenings around our Archdiocese and our High Schools

## INSIDE

### Introducing the Office for Catholic Schools Team

Our team at the OCS, who we are, and how we can support you!

### GRACE program for High School Leaders

Most of our High Schools have representatives in the GRACE program - join us!

### Opportunities for PD around the Sound

There are many opportunities to get PD, get involved and continue learning!



High School Teachers!

Thank you so much for saying YES to teaching in the Archdiocese of Seattle. We are so happy that you are here! This monthly newsletter is to introduce you to the happenings around the Archdiocese, to introduce you to different programs throughout our western Washington regions, and to show you what is happening in partner high schools.

Whether you are brand new to the Archdiocese or a seasoned teacher, we hope that you will find the information here interesting, engaging and worthwhile to help you navigate high school issues, specifically those that are unique to Catholic schools in Washington State.

If ever you find the motivation or spirit to contribute to this newsletter, please reach out to me - I'm always excited to hear your voice! In that spirit, I hope to meet every one of you when visiting your school, and I welcome your questions, comments and partnership.

WELCOME BACK to school - we hope that this year will be the best year yet!

Dr. Justyna King  
Assistant Superintendent for Academic Excellence  
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# The Office for Catholic Schools

And how do we support teachers?

**The OCS - Office for Catholic Schools, is made up of a leadership team that supports Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality, with additional support in leadership, marketing, and Early Learning.**

The OCS team is ultimately here to support schools in the many areas that are needed to run a Catholic mission-based educational institution. Teachers may not always reach out to our leadership team directly, but certainly we are here for you!

Our structure is aligned with the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Secondary and Elementary schools (NSBECS for short).

*The Office for Catholic Schools provides a website for all teachers and administrators in our system to access information, opportunities and announcements at [mycatholicsschool.org](http://mycatholicsschool.org) - check it out for more about how we aim to support you and your school!*

## How We Can Help:

Questions about Catholicism, CIC, or Religion standards? Call Sandy!

Questions about HR, policies COVID questions or navigating school governance? Call Pam!

Questions about curriculum, resources, or PD programs? Want to serve on an accreditation committee? Or just need a shoulder to cry on? Call me!

(Note: if you have to call John Sullivan, you've probably done something very, very wrong and you should probably check in with your principal ASAP)

Interested in learning more about PreK, Early Learning Centers and summer programming? Call Dave!

Want to become an administrator or pursue certification, a Masters, a Doctorate, or a college program? Call Kelly!

Need marketing help/advice? Call Kristin Moore!

What about Kristin Dixon? More on our devoted Superintendent in the next issue ...

## The Four Domains Align with OCS

Mission & Catholic Identity



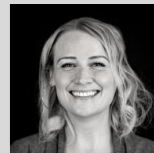
Sandy Barton Smith - Assistant Superintendent for Mission and Catholic Identity

Governance & Leadership



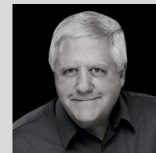
Pam Schwartz - Assistant Superintendent for Governance and Leadership

Academic Excellence



Justyna King - Assistant Superintendent for Academic Excellence

Operational Vitality



John Sullivan - Assistant Superintendent for Finance Services

## LEADERSHIP AT THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CONT.



Dave Mayer - Director of Early Childhood Programs



Kelly Surapaneni - Coordinator of Leadership Development



Kristin Moore - Director of Marketing & Enrollment



## **GUIDING REGIONALLY—ADVANCING CATHOLIC EDUCATION TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**MANY OF OUR EDUCATORS ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LEAD AND CONTINUE TEACHING IN THE CLASSROOM- THIS IS WHERE FULCRUM PARTNERS WITH OCS TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND LEADERS.**

What started out as a PLC training grew into a 100+ teacher program that is on its 6<sup>th</sup> year of running. Rooted in DuFour's *Learning by Doing* PLC model, the GRACE program has taken on several different iterations of leadership in the schoolhouse.

Originally, teacher leaders would meet three times a year in person at the chancery in Seattle to work in PLCs (hence, learning by doing) to collaborate on curriculum, development, MAP data, CEL 5D training, and more. In 2020, the program adopted a fully virtual platform, hosting more regular, but less time consuming, meetings via ZOOM.

The focus areas of learning have changed as well - still rooted in PLCs, we try to tackle site-based issues and cater to the needs of individual regions and schools. With that in mind, some of our schools asked for a larger emphasis in equity work and support in Catholic Social Teaching alignment within the diversity efforts of their curriculum development. This year we will be utilizing Glenn Singleton's *Courageous Conversations* about Race as an anchor to ground discussions about equity.

Another area of focus for this upcoming year will be developing an up-to-date curriculum database for our schools. Throughout the summer our GRACE regional teacher leaders have started gathering information about curriculum implemented in our Archdiocese.

Finally, this year we have added the high schools to the mix - the program is only as successful as our participation and collaboration efforts. Eight of our eleven high schools have representatives in the High School cohort of the GRACE program. **We hope to have 100% participation by 2022.** Please let your principal know if you are interested in joining the GRACE teacher leader program! We meet every third Tuesday of the month via zoom, from 3:30pm-5:30pm.

Clock hours and stipends are provided for participation in the program.



## **Getting the Most from Teacher Teams This Year**

(Originally titled "Why Teacher Teams Are More Critical Than Ever")

In *Educational Leadership*, Susan Moore Johnson (Harvard Graduate School of Education) says her interviews with educators during the pandemic pointed to the key role of school-based teams in supporting schools' "resolve and resilience." Going forward, she urges school leaders to maximize the impact of teams in five ways:

- Build a schedule with weekly common planning time for same-grade/same-subject teachers.
- "Doggedly protect" meeting times so teachers can count on them.
- Give teams responsibility for important decisions, including curriculum materials, analyzing student work, and parent outreach.
- Coach team facilitators on assigning roles to members and running meetings that continuously improve teaching and learning.
- Keep the whole staff informed about each team's deliberations and decisions.

*"Why Teacher Teams Are More Critical Than Ever"* by Susan Moore Johnson in *Educational Leadership*, September 2021 (Vol. 79, #1, pp. 59-63);

*\*Every month I will be highlighting articles cited in the Marshall Memo - including the excerpt above. Your principal receives the Marshall Memo every week - ask them about this fabulous resource*

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS 2021-22

There are many ways to continue to learn and become a more effective educator - regardless of your experience in the classroom. The GRACE teacher leader program is one way to get involved if you are interested in continuing teaching in the classroom while dipping your toe into the world of administration. Once you have decided that you are ready to delve into Catholic school leadership, however, Kelly Surapaneni runs a fabulous Leadership Academy for aspiring leaders in our schools.

## OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Office for Catholic Schools and the Fulcrum Foundation offer the Leadership Academy, a yearlong leadership development program for aspiring and new principals. Recognized Catholic school leaders and shareholders will provide sessions in spiritual, academic, managerial, and strategic leadership. Working in solidarity to ensure a system of excellent Catholic schools, the Leadership Academy will provide the knowledge, skills, strategies and best practices for current and future school leaders.

**WHO:** New and aspiring principals

**WHEN:** 2021-2022 Dates:

**October 13th**  
**November 17th**  
**January 19th**  
**February 9th**  
**March 9th**  
**April 6th**

The Leadership Academy meetings will be held from **3:45pm-5:00pm**

Outside of these listed meetings are a number of *optional* leadership development opportunities, beginning in August.

**WHERE:** Zoom

**WHAT:** Leadership training in the following National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools ([NSBECS](#)) areas:

**Mission & Catholic Identity**  
**Governance & Leadership**  
**Academic Excellence**  
**Operational Vitality**

If you are interested in the Leadership Academy for the 2021-2022 academic year, contact Kelly Surapaneni at [kelly.surapaneni@seattlearch.org](mailto:kelly.surapaneni@seattlearch.org).

MARK FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2022** IN YOUR CALENDARS - THE OCS IS HOSTING A FULL DAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN FROM PEERS, EXPERTS, AND LEADERS. THIS IS OPEN TO ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. SESSIONS RUN 8 AM - 4 PM.

(Clock hours available for both attendees and presenters.)

### Serving on Accreditation Teams

We are still looking for members to serve on accreditation teams for Spring 2022. If your principal agrees to release you for 3 days, you will earn 30 clock hours and get reimbursed for travel/lodging costs. It is amazing Professional Development - email Justyna King if you are interested!!!





## SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**Each month we will be spotlighting a high school leader, teacher, program or happening as a celebration of the amazing things happening in our Catholic High Schools. If your high school is doing something amazing, hit me up!**

For September, I'm celebrating our newest High School GRACE Teacher Leaders! Thank you for being a part of the program and jumping into this pilot project feet first! And extra kudos to Kristin Kuzmanich who stepped up into the GRACE Regional Teacher Leader Role!

<b>GRACE Regional Teacher Leader:</b>	<b>Kristin Kuzmanich</b> VP of Academics Kennedy Catholic High School
Archbishop Murphy HS	Tom Wier - Science
Eastside Catholic HS	Lisa Snow – English / Ed Tech
Holy Names Academy	Becca Shope – Science Chair
Holy Names Academy	Becca Sager – English Chair
Kennedy Catholic High School	Tristan Roth – English
Kennedy Catholic High School	Susan Lewis – World Lang.
O'Dea High School	Ryan White – Science
Pope John Paul II High School	Ann Ashe – VP of Academics
Seton Catholic High School	Kerry Bustamante - Science



**Kristin Kuzmanich**  
Vice Principal of Academics

Interested in learning more about getting involved in the GRACE TL program? Feel free to reach out to Justyna King at [justyna.king@seattlearch.org](mailto:justyna.king@seattlearch.org) or the High School Regional Teacher Leader for the group, Kristin Kuzmanich at [kuzmanichk@kennedyhs.org](mailto:kuzmanichk@kennedyhs.org)

We WELCOME more high school teachers and leaders to the program!

## DID YOU KNOW?

THE SEATTLE ARCHDIOCESE HAS 11 HIGH SCHOOLS AND 62 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - SPANNING FROM BELLINGHAM, TO VANCOUVER, FROM SNOQUALMIE TO ABERDEEN.

### OUR HIGH SCHOOLS ARE:

O'DEA HIGH SCHOOL (SEATTLE)

ARCHBISHOP MURPHY HIGH SCHOOL (EVERETT)

EASTSIDE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (SAMMAMISH)

POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL (LACEY)

SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (VANCOUVER)

SEATTLE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL (SEATTLE)

KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (BURIEN)

HOLY NAMES ACADEMY (SEATTLE)

FOREST RIDGE OF THE SACRED HEART (BELLEVUE)

BISHOP BLANCHET HIGH SCHOOL (SEATTLE)

BELLARMINE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL (TACOMA)

YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY? HMMM. BUT CAN YOU NAME ALL OF THEIR MASCOTS/MONIKERS??



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



"A precondition for doing *anything* to strengthen our practice and improve a school is the existence of a collegial culture in which professionals talk about practice, share their craft knowledge, and observe and root for the success of one another. Without these in place, no meaningful improvement - no staff or curriculum development, no teacher leadership, no student appraisal, no team teaching, no parent involvement, and no sustained change - is possible." - Roland Barth



### IN CLOSING ...

In an *Edutopia* article, Jenn David-Lang says that after an exceptionally scattered 18 months dealing with the pandemic, educators need to be focused on no more than three key priorities for 2021-22. Why three? According to Chris McChesney, with 4-10 priorities, we're likely to achieve only one or two with quality, and with ten or more, we won't accomplish anything of significance. Steve Jobs famously led an annual retreat in which Apple's top leaders narrowed possible initiatives to ten - and then Jobs theatrically crossed out the bottom seven and declared that resources would be devoted only to the top three.

"The Value of Limiting Your Priorities for the School Year" by Jenn David-Lang in *Edutopia*, September 10, 2021

Keeping that in mind ... we pray:

Dear Lord,

Pray that we have a beautiful school year with little interruption, less uncertainty, void of sorrow. May we learn from lessons of the past and come out of this pandemic with perspective.

It is difficult to prioritize multi-dimensional learning objectives and yet, we know that nothing is more important than faith in Jesus Christ. Let us remember that when we plan for this upcoming year, we do so with the understanding that capacities are not infinite, and although learning is never done, so is not the ministry of teaching.

AMEN.

