

THE

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The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT

OF

'76

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From The President's Desk

TECHNOLOGY COMMANDMENTS: THOU SHALT NOT. . .

"Teaching for the 21st Century." We hear about it and read about it throughout education today. More and more, these buzzwords come hand in hand with the increased use of technology in the classroom. With technology, however, comes the need for teachers to act with caution and, above all, to use common sense in dealing with any technological apparatus, be it in the school building or beyond.

The Archdiocese has developed an **Acceptable Use Policy for Technology**. As the policy states: there is to be a "safe environment for learning with technology." In keeping with this "safe environment," there is a "responsibility to use the equipment correctly," to "respect the name and intellectual property of others and to follow the policies as outlined in the Guidelines." Individual schools may also have added their own Use Policy as an addendum to that of the Archdiocese.

The Association is familiar with the Policy and, most especially, with its ramifications. Please be advised that any teacher who violates this policy could be subject to disciplinary action.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Let's look first at the problems that could occur within the school building. The first thing to remember is that anything you write, e-mail, download or google on the school computers is not your property and is not private. The school can access everything you do.

Use of technology outside of school, is another, and, potentially, equally dangerous, venue. Even using your personal computer, cell phone or blackberry, you need to be extremely careful. What you blog, what and whom you text, what you include on a My Space or Facebook web page, can result in disciplinary and, in some cases, job-threatening action.

The Association has accompanied several teachers to meetings at which they were asked to defend their use/misuse of technology in a classroom setting and on after-school time.

Listed below are some commandments each teacher should try very hard to obey.

THOU SHALT NOT ever give your cell phone number to a student.

THOU SHALT NOT ever text a student.

THOU SHALT NOT ever e-mail a student (school address only) unless it is curriculum or course related.

THOU SHALT NOT ever post photos of students on your web page (with or without their permission).

THOU SHALT NOT post personal pictures that show you in a questionable situation or inappropriate attire.

THOU SHALT NOT post personal information of any type.

THOU SHALT NOT refer to your employer in an unflattering or derogatory manner in a blog.

THOU SHALT NOT download any questionable material onto a school PC or laptop.

If there is, in your mind, a question as to whether or not something might prove problematic, err on the side of caution and don't do it. This will help to ensure that you continue to teach in the 21st Century.





The Association Of Catholic Teachers
congratulates

Ginny Crowther

on 25 years of service to all the members of the
Association of Catholic Teachers and the
National Association of Catholic School Teachers,
especially the ACT and NACST Staffs.

Thinking back on some of the milestones in my life, I remembered how I felt when I reached the age of twenty-five and thought at the time, "Wow, I have now lived one quarter of a century!" While 18 was special and brought about adulthood, and 21 was even more liberating, something about turning 25 made me stop and think about life and my existence in this world.

There is something truly special about reaching "25" whether it be in a career, a marriage, or, even a birthdate that brings about a sense of pride and accomplishment. To me, twenty-five years shows experience and wisdom, determination and hard work, dedication and loyalty, and a genuine love for what one is doing.

In December of 2008, I completed my twenty-fifth year with the Association of Catholic Teachers. I feel a deep sense of pride for myself and for all the teachers who are celebrating their 25th year as well as those who have already reached this milestone.

For me, it is again, a time of reflection and, again, I say "wow" for I am truly blessed. I share my days with the best friends and co-workers (past and present) one could ever have. I have learned something good from everyone I have come in contact with during my tenure. You may have been calling in with a medical problem or for some other business, but something you may have said made me stop and think, and I grew a little that day because of you. Your kind words or funny stories or maybe something not so funny but very serious and sad made me listen and learn from you that day and for that I am thankful.

Today I celebrate and share 25 years with you the teachers - my teachers. Thank you for being a part of my life.

Ginny

National Association of Catholic School Teachers John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship

The National Association of Catholic School Teachers established the John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members. During their senior year of high school, \$4,000 awards are made to three students, \$1,000 in each of their four years of college study.

All sons, daughters and stepchildren of all active NACST members are eligible to participate in this scholarship provided they are in good standing in their senior year of high school. Application forms are available from the Senior Delegate of each high school. Deadline for submission of all applications is March 1st.

NOTICE

Voluntary Transfer

Applications for voluntary transfers must be submitted no later than April 1st.

(Forms will be posted by March 1st.)

NOTICE

It's time to start thinking sabbatical!

Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted no later than
March 2nd.

It's time to start thinking about your decision to possibly apply.
Forms for application will be posted in each school in February.

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2008 DUES

\$470.82

(13 pays x \$23.31 + 7 pays x \$23.97)



The Association Of Catholic Teachers

congratulates

Robert Fitzsimmons

Anthony "Butch" Capuano

who are celebrating 50 years of service
to the Secondary School System
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

25 Years of Service

A Silver Celebration

The Association Of Catholic Teachers

congratulates its members who are celebrating their
25th year of service to the Secondary School System
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Nora Kasper

Mary Balchaitis

Anne Templeton

Maureen Dwyer

Ann Cornell

Patricia Kubach

Joseph Randzo

Teachers in the News

The following teachers' names and/or pictures appeared in recent editions of *The Catholic Standard and Times*.

Teachers Named '21st Century' Fellows

Joe Konecki - Cardinal O'Hara
Steve Kerwin - Bishop Shanahan
Laura O'Reilly - Saint Pius X

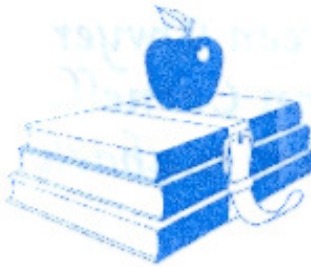
Local teacher creates web-based gradebook



Executives of GradeConnect, Lou Osinski (from left) and Charles Gallagher, both teachers at Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Prendergast High School, observe Bonner sophomores Robert Scheetz, Carmen DePrince and Robert O'Neill.



**St. Hubert creates
space for art
to inspire**



Olivia O'Neil, right, who has taught art at St. Hubert for 12 years, goes over an assignment with Kaitlin Dunne.

Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to Holy Cross H. S. (Delran N.J.)



25 Years of Service A Silver Celebration

The Association Of Catholic Teachers

congratulates its members who are celebrating their
25th year of service to Holy Cross High School
of the Diocese of Trenton.

Joseph Dvorak

The contract was signed by Walt Walsh, Senior Delegate, and Dennis Guida, Principal, on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. It is now being printed. Everyone should have a copy of the new contract very soon.



Tax Information: Union Dues for the Year 2008 are
\$474.60.

ACT

General Membership Meeting

Thursday

April 2, 2009

4:00 P. M.

Crowne Plaza
Philadelphia

Main Line

State of the Union
Constriction

Meet the candidates
for the office of
Area Vice President.