The Creative Mission
A Newsletter from
the Office of Enrichment Programs
Archdiocese of San Antonio Department of Catholic Schools
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Assembly Grand Finale:
Sent by the Spirit with Catholic Schools Music

It started with the idea to bring Catholic school students together for a great climax and celebration of our youth. As the Holy Spirit would have it, the “Grand Finale” would consist of over 300 students from choir, band and orchestra, 14 schools, and their loyal and talented directors. The final program consisted of 4 music sets and 8 songs! After 3 scheduled rehearsal and countless hours of practice at their respective schools, the group came together on Saturday, November 4, at St. Mary’s University for the culmination of the 2017 Assembly event. Following evening vespers, the high school choristers transitioned with “Pescador de Hombres” leading into “Go Light Your World” as 200 elementary and middle school students processed with battery lit candles. The sets followed with “They’ll Know we are Christians,” “Go Make a Difference,” a clever mash of “Holy Spirit” and “Oceans,” and finally ending with the colorful “Let the Fire Fall” and “Alabare,” a community favorite. Archbishop Gustavo was beyond joyful to see the beauty and spirit-filled fervor of the Catholic school students as they drew the audience closer to Christ through song. Special thanks to St. Anthony Catholic High School and Antonian College Preparatory for hosting singing and music rehearsals on October 28.

My profound GRATITUDE to the schools, volunteers and music directors that participated in the Assembly 2017 GRAND FINALE! Con Dios, todo es posible!!!!!

Antonian: Jack Bonner & Jason Smith
Little Flower: Leticia Gonzalez
Holy Spirit: Adam Olmos
St. Anthony Elem: Carmen Cantu
St. John Berchmans: Javier Sauceda
St. Luke: Cynthia Vega
St. Peter Prince: Madonna Gil

Central Catholic: Danny Solis
Holy Name: Terri Jarzombek
Providence: Elaine Bir
St. Anthony HS: Louiseete Zurita
St. John Paul II: Stephen Young
St. Monica: Rebecca Torres
St. Pius X: Lauren Adre

The 2017-2018 CAAC Season Kicks Off!

November 18
St. Luke

April 7
Antonian

January 20
Providence

February 10
Incarnate Word

Red Zone

Blue Zone

We are off to a strong start to the 5th season of the Catholic Arts and Academic Competition program. Twenty-two schools have registered to participate in the Cheer-4-Christ Cheerleading Contest scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2017, at St. Luke Catholic School. Holy Cross of San Antonio and Central Catholic cheerleaders will be present to “show-off” their talents and promote the school along with the cheer program and accolades. As the elementary and middle schools gear up for STREAM, please make sure you follow the updated manual.
Central Shines with “Fuego Azul” Half-time Show

Danny Solis, Central Catholic Band

With much anticipation, the Central Band took the field this fall with a Latin-style half-time show while introducing the new Colorguard! The show features four different songs and incorporates tall beam props to represent the fire-filled Spirit in the Central and Providence combined band. Their hard work has paid off at local marching contests and at the state TAPPS contest.

Antonian Theatre heads to state with “Fire in the Hole”

Holly Martinez, Antonian Theatre

The Antonian College Prep drama department participated at the TAPPS regional one act play competition and placed 2nd overall, earning them a ticket to the TAPPS state competition! Please continue to lift them in prayer as they continue on to state contest. Congratulations to the Apache Thespians!

St. Luke Creates a Work of heART for Fr. Jim

Julie Dannhardt, St. Luke & Little Flower Art

Students engage in collaborative art in grades first through eighth grade to create a beautiful panel for pastor, Fr. Jim Barlow. Each student drew a heart with oil pastels, and then used liquid watercolor to paint over them followed by painting the background. Each student said a prayer for Father as they worked on two panels. The hearts were glued together and the panels were placed in his office. He loved it! This is an example of work that is meaningful and beautiful!
January is designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This month provides an excellent opportunity to increase awareness about human trafficking and trafficking prevention. During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we resolve to shine a light on every dark corner where human trafficking still threatens the basic rights and freedoms of others.

In the upcoming weeks, we encourage you to undertake efforts to raise awareness and educate communities on human trafficking. In doing so, you can also promote best practices to help advance anti-trafficking initiatives.

https://www.sharejourney.org/

"When God conceived the world, that was Poetry;
He formed it, and that was Sculpture;
He colored it, and that was Painting;
He peopled it with living beings,
and that was the grand, divine, eternal Drama."
- Charlotte Cushman

Sent to Collaborate
K-8 Teachers Develop Art and Music Standards

The 2017-2018 Professional Development plan for the Arts will focus on writing curriculum. Music and Art teachers will meet as a group and look at standards, select a template, develop a scope and sequence outline, and embed appropriate Catholic elements. The second session for the half-day Friday is set for November 17 at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School. The third session in March will bring the high school teachers and Elementary teachers for alignment and collaboration. The NEW Archdiocesan Standards are aligned with TEKS for practical transitioning to the high school standards.

Service with heART

Josh Commander, Antonian Art
To discourage the usual graffiti, Antonian art students painted a mural next to Dr. Rachael Smith’s San Antonio Animal Hospital near Antonian College Preparatory High School. Smith is donating 20 percent of money from vaccines to the Art Department for art supplies.

The Sounds of Christmas Concert

Back by popular demand, CTSA - Catholic TV, will feature performances by talented students from participating area Catholic high school hand bell and choral programs at the magnificent Our Lady of the Lake Sacred Heart Chapel. Taping of the show will be on Thursday, Nov. 30 at OLLU. The concert will feature traditional Christmas music sure to delight audiences of all ages. Be sure to tune to Channel 15 on December 8 to view the program on the air.

Upcoming concerts? Please send me a musical note to veronica.montalvo@archsa.org

“Be who you are and be that perfectly well”
Saint Francis de Sales
Finding the Sacred in Local Art

Art is in EVERYTHING! One can connect each core subject, be it math, science or literature, to the skill and purpose of art - thus, expounding on the principles of STREAM. Students and teachers have a rich array of resources, not only online, but in our own local museums and art galleries. Currently on exhibit at the McNay Art Museum is photographer Chuck Ramirez’s “All This and Heaven, Too.” Ramirez applied his commercial design strategies to create alluring photographs of items that others might cast aside. Opposing themes of life/death, humor/despair and consumption/excess permeate his photographs. We must value the experiences that students gain in visiting museums, art exhibitions and local art shows in order to address the Connections and Art Appreciation standards (TEKS: Historical & Cultural Relevance and Critical Evaluation & Response.)

Theatre of Social Justice

Theologically, theatre reflects Christianity’s central doctrines—incarnation, community, and presence—enhancing the human experience. Because Theatre engages viewers on multiple levels, including political, social, religious, personal, intellectual, emotional, and kinesthetic, it models the Trinity with the immediacy and transcendence that draws out the presence of God in nature and grace. Theatre is a unique tool to spread the message of God to a culture detached from the Spirit. I challenge all play-makers to use the stage as an opportunity for encounter with the true word. Within your theatre season, make connections to gospel values and model a view of the world where redemption is just a stage direction away.

Please send me your production schedule or upcoming events!

From the Director

With God, all things are truly possible! During this month of Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the openness you have had to partnering with the Department of Catholic Schools Enrichment Office. My prayer is to provide support and to advocate for your needs and dreams. Nothing gives me a happier heart than when we can come together and engage in fulfilling God’s will. Thank you for sharing your successes and your challenges. Through prayer and action, God continues to invite us to step outside of our comfort zone, to use our creative talents, and to persevere towards a future that is not our own. Our belief that education in the ARTS provides an unequivocal humanitarian experience is a gift that our students can hold dear as they grow into adulthood and beyond. The beauty that springs from our craft not only draws us closer to our creative maker, but allows each of us to express our own longing and desires. It is a tool for communication, as well as healing. As we face the constant reminder of our broken world, let us turn to a form of art and use it for good - for us, and for others.

May the Lord’s Grace be ever upon you †
Your Sister in Christ, Veronica Montalvo

https://www.archsa.org/schools/finearts

Visit the Archdiocese of San Antonio Department of Catholic Schools FINE ARTS page to learn more about our philosophy, professional development, and upcoming events.

On one single day, a day of art.
Plan your event for
Thursday, March 01, 2018
Big Art Day!

Big Art Day is an art happening to raise awareness of art education and art as a creative force in our communities on a BIG statewide scale. It is an attempt by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) to engage all art educators, their students and communities in a single day art event.

Visit bigartday.org to get more information!