The Creative Mission
A Newsletter from
The Office of Enrichment Programs
Archdiocese of San Antonio Department of Catholic Schools
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We Art Sent by the Spirit:
Spreading a Culture of Excellence in Catholic Arts
A group of talented musicians gathered to lift the congregation in song at the 2017 Catholic Schools Convocation Mass. The liturgical celebration was led by Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, and was joined by Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette, School pastors and Religious guests. Joyfully, we gathered to the hymn of “We are Called.” During the offertory, we reflected on Jesus being the “Center of My Life” and featured Jacob Cantu (Rolling Hills), Dorothy Marton (Blessed), and Regina Cortez (St. Monica). Communion was highlighted with “Bread for the World” featuring Gary Cook (St. Monica), “Bread of Life” and “In Remembrance of You.” After uplifting words from our Archdiocesan shepherd, the Music Ministry jammed to an organic rendition of “They’ll Know We are Christians.” Over 30 individuals participated as singers and instrumentalists. Thank you for sharing your time, talents and your energy for this event.

Archbishop has so enjoyed hearing the students in your music programs that he has requested Catholic School music program participation in the Assembly 2017 Grand Finale. His vision involves high school band, choir, and drum lines, along with Elementary choirs. A planning meeting for directors is set for Sept. 7 at 4:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.

We Are Called to Discipleship
Fostering Educational Excellence in Curriculum Design
The 2017-2018 Professional Development plan for the Arts will focus on writing curriculum. Music, art, and drama will meet as a group and look at standards, select a template, develop a scope and sequence outline, and embed appropriate Catholic elements. The half-day Friday dates are set for September 1st, November 17th, and March 2nd. Grades K-8th will meet independently the first two sessions and will be joined by the high school teachers for the March session for alignment and collaboration.

Introducing the 2017-2018 CAAC Season
November 18
St. Luke
April 7
Antonian
January 20
Providence
February 10
Incarnate Word
Red Zone
Blue Zone

Entering its 5th year, the Catholic Arts and Academic Competition program is gearing up for a tremendous year of developing students into the young men and women God created them to be. Through intentional integration of study materials and extended learning opportunities, we are praying for an enjoyable and academically challenging season. This year, the contest will focus on K-8th for competitive participation. High Schools will participate as showcase performers, host school ambassadors, and assist with judging.
The Catholic Creative Arts contest offers students an opportunity to design their own expressions of understanding and living of the Gospel Values and Catholic Social Teachings. With the guidance of classroom teachers, students are able to draw upon their skills in the areas of art, writing, poetry, and photography.

**Solidarity** is a truly universal bond, linking together all human beings, living and dead, of every nation, race and belief. More than that, for Christians, solidarity is the bond that, through the life of Jesus as God and man, links all human beings with God. That is why all the different facets of solidarity are to some extent true – because they are all perspectives that flow from the experience of being human.

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**Divisions**

**Categories**

**Grades 1 - 5**
- Art, Poetry

**Grades 6 - 8**
- Art, Poetry, Photography, Writing

**Grades 9 - 12**
- Art, Poetry, Photography, Writing

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**They’ll Know We Art Christians**

**Welcoming our brothers and sisters into our Archdiocese of San Antonio Catholic School Community**

There is great energy and excitement at the onset of starting a new chapter in your career. Placing all your faith, and believing that only God has brought you to this next adventure, there is a profound peace in your heart. Let’s welcome our colleagues who join us from near and far, with a variety of experiences, and with dreams and visions of the possibilities.
"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

**STEMing with Religion and the Arts!**

STREAM is not a new curriculum... but a framework for creative instruction. The NCEA's description of the characteristics of a STREAM school begins by saying that schools should "integrate Catholic identity into every aspect of the curriculum." The characteristics also include a commitment to innovation and inclusiveness.

Although NCEA does not provide specific lessons or standards for STREAM, teachers and principals can learn from experts and share successful examples of lessons that integrate all components of STREAM. Approximately half of all Catholic schools are now using some components of STREAM education.

As the 2017-18 school year begins, three Archdiocesan schools are promoting their STREAM initiatives.

Strong collaboration and curriculum innovation in our Catholic schools show that not only can we hold our own and more in terms of academic rigor, but it’s all done in a safe and values-based system.

Learn more about STREAM at:
https://www.archsa.org/schools/stream

**Christ, You Art the Center of My Life**

*Arts Education through a Catholic World-view*

What makes a school Catholic is the ever-present view that every day, every interaction is an opportunity to lead a student closer to Jesus through the love of His Catholic Church. Does your class mission statement and goals center around the person of Jesus? Do the lessons, projects, and experiences the students will participate in help them see purpose and the beauty of Christ? In their extra-curricular activities, will the students grow in appreciation of the gifts the Lord has blessed them with? How will students give glory to God in their victories and challenges? How will you as the leader make Jesus a part of your class?

**Bands Tuning to Excellence**

With summer music camps behind us, the football fields are now tracking the footprints of students taking formations while playing their much anticipated show music. Boosters are sending out Sign-up Genius invitations to help with uniform distributions, meal preps, and planning their fundraiser events. Friday Night Lights bring excitement as students perform their music and take the field to extend a warm welcome to the challenging school performers. We take the role of “evangelizers” when we embody true Christian spirit in ALL that we do, with ALL whom we encounter, and ALL who witness us in action.

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

**Melodies of Vocal Excellence**

Selecting music is sometimes the most exciting (and possibly most daunting) process for your program. With many forms of discernment, we can not discard the “coincidental” providential affirmations God sends our way to let us know “this is a good one!” As you get to know your students’ voices (as many will have gone through a vocal change over the summer) and interest, ponder on the ways you can draw out their talents by challenging them and also exposing them to great songs throughout history. Above all, have fun! Of the top 10 things students look for in their music classes, the top were: a teacher who is invested in their progress, learning quality music, and having fun.

**Upcoming concerts?** Please send me a musical note to veronica.montalvo@archsa.org
Salvation history has given us (and the many museums around the globe) a myriad of Sacred Art. It is important to learn about great artists and their famous works, however it is in a piece in which one can ponder and see the beauty of God’s work that takes the craft to another level. God is a creative being and has provided his children with so much to draw from. In creating works of art, ask your students to use the opportunity as a prayer to thank God for the skill and talent, and also for his creation.

**Colorful Expressions of Excellence**

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 to compile a Catholic Schools Theatre Show Calendar!*

**An Act of Dramatic Excellence**

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

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**From the Director**

Welcome back and a special welcome to all our new fine arts educators in the Archdiocese of San Antonio! As the Director of Enrichment Programs, I am here as support and as a resource for YOU. My personal mission is to help you improve, continue, or assist in building strong art, music and theater programs in our schools.

On a quarterly basis, I will publish *The Creative Mission* newsletter to provide information about events and other opportunities for the fine arts community. Please send me information on your school’s programs and events to be included in the newsletter throughout the year. I will be sending out a “program survey” to get a better understanding of your program and resources.

I love visiting schools. Please invite me any time! I am happy to come to your programs or see your classroom and students in action.

Know that I am excited to work collaboratively, engage in fellowship, celebrate your victories and walk with you in your challenges.

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