

THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT

OF '76

60 Years Strong
1966-2026

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020- 215-568-4175 – VOLUME XXXXVI-NO.6
Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **FEBRUARY 2026**



From the President's Desk

Another Semester in the Books

Congratulations on making it through the first semester! It certainly felt like one of the longest semesters in past years with its lack of breaks. As we move into the second semester, I wanted to give you a few things to keep in mind for the remainder of the year.

First, the first semester evaluation period is over. The period closed for our non-tenured teachers on January 9th, and you should have received your evaluations from both your department head and your administrative evaluator by January 23rd. The evaluation period for tenured teachers closed on January 23rd, and you should have received your evaluations by February 6th.

If you have any questions or concerns about your first semester evaluations, please let both your senior delegate and our office know.

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I've already started my second semester visits, and the main questions I have heard have been focused on negotiations.

Things are starting to move. Katie Toenniessen-Innes and I had a meeting with Bill Brannick and Brian Pedrow who is the archdiocesan lead negotiator and who was in that position during the last negotiations. Both sides agreed that having a multi-year contract finalized before the end of the school year was in everyone's best interest. We agreed to limit our focus to three or four specific topics to try and make sure we can accomplish this goal.

This is where your survey answers from the past few months are going to make an impact. I am happy to say we received more than triple the number of replies as we received for the previous contract. The Negotiating Team has gone through your survey responses and is working on putting together proposals focused on the most important topics YOU brought to us. Our plan is to have our proposals ready for this month's Executive Board meeting, and with the Board's approval we will present those proposals to the System.

As always, thank you for the work you do each and every day for your students and for one another. Your engagement — especially your thoughtful survey responses — strengthens our voice at the table and ensures that our priorities truly reflect the membership. As negotiations begin to take shape and the second semester moves forward, please stay connected and continue to reach out with your questions or concerns.

James

Securing and Protecting the Rights of Workers



~A Labor of Love~

VOLUNTARY TRANSFER, TEACHER SWAP, TEMPORARY TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

Teachers interested in applying for a voluntary transfer, teacher swap, or temporary transfer should file their application **no later than March 15, 2026.** Applications will be posted in the schools on February 17, 2026.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST UNION MEMBERS

Justin Brand
William Smith

Thank you for Joining Us!

UNION DUE FOR TAX YEAR 2025

January 2025 – June 2025 = \$390.00
(For those who resigned or retired as of June 2025)

January 2025– December 2025 = \$649.84

50 YEARS
OF
SERVICE

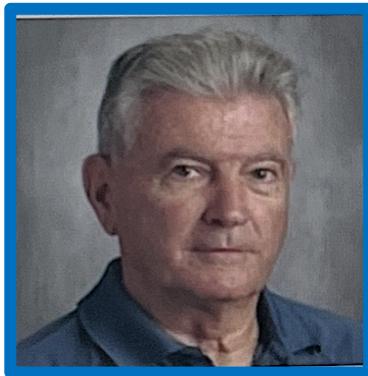


A
GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
CONGRATULATES

DAVID SCHAFER

Saint Hubert High School



On **50** years of service to the Secondary School System of the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

*“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”
~Steve Jobs*

25 YEARS
OF
SERVICE



A
SILVER
ANNIVERSARY

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

*congratulates its members who are celebrating **25** years of service to the
Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

TERRI BORUSIEWICZ, Cardinal O'Hara High School

MELISSA COSTELLO, Father Judge High School

MARTHA DUGAN, Archbishop Wood High School

ELLEN LUBY, Archbishop Ryan High School

RALPH RIENDEAU, Pope John Paul II High School

MARIA SAWICK, Saint Hubert High School for Girls

KARL STOUT, Lansdale Catholic High School

JAMES TIMER, Lansdale Catholic High School

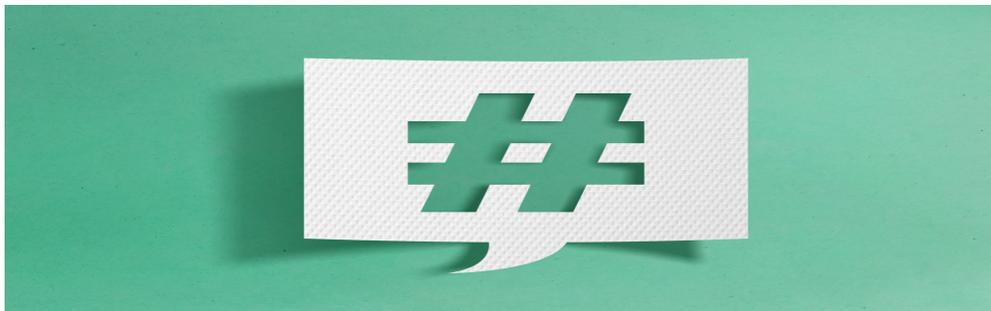
MARY FRANCES TRAYWICK, Pope John Paul II High School

Top Ten Responses To The Question: Why do you volunteer work after school?

(In memory of Ed Stehle)

- 1) I need the extra money.
- 2) I'm rostered to do it.
- 3) I'm subbing for another volunteer.
- 4) It gives me extra Excel time.
- 5) I'll tell you when I'm off probation.
- 6) It lowers my guilt factor.
- 7) They won't let me do it during the day.
- 8) I was told I had to.
- 9) It lets me keep up with the gossip.
- 10) I do it for the kids.

FEBRUARY'S CONTEST



Create a hashtag for ACT's 60th Anniversary. Send your entry to

Ginny at ginny@act1776.com by March 10, 2026.

Example: #60YearsStrong!

ACT Second Semester School Visit Schedule 2025-2026 School Year

NAME OF SCHOOL	ACT VISITOR	DATE	DAY
Little Flower	James	TBD	
Bishop Shanahan	James	February 10	Tuesday
SS Neumann-Goretti	James	February 12	Thursday
Cardinal O'Hara	James	February 17	Tuesday
Father Judge	James	February 20	Friday
Roman Catholic	James	February 27	Friday
Arbbishop Ryan	James	March 4	Wednesday
Pope John Paul II	James	March 11	Wednesday
West Catholic	James	March 13	Friday
Conwell-Egan	James	March 25	Wednesday
Bonner-Prendergast	James	March 27	Friday
Archbishop Wood	James	April 9	Thursday
Archbishop Carroll	James	April 15	Wednesday
Lansdale Catholic	James	April 17	Friday
St. Hubert	James	April 22	Wednesday

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

~Abraham Lincoln~