



THE SPIRIT OF '76

60 Years Strong
1966-2026

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020- 215-568-4175 – VOLUME XXXXVI-No.11
Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **AUGUST, 2026**



From the President's Desk

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and, more importantly, has had the chance to relax and recharge. As we get closer to the start of another school year, I know that familiar mix of excitement, anticipation, and maybe a little bit of “how is summer already almost over?” is starting to set in.

For those of us who have been around for a while, we know that no amount of planning can really prepare you for a new group of students. Every year brings its own challenges, personalities, and surprises. For those joining ACT for the first time this year, welcome! Starting at a new school can be overwhelming, but remember that you have the support of the teachers around you.

I encourage our veteran members to make an effort to introduce yourselves to our new teachers during those first few days. It is much better to say hello in the

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hallway than to wait for the awkward icebreaker at the first faculty meeting! For our new members, take advantage of the experience around you. Getting to know the teachers who have worked with your students before, or who will be sharing those students with you, can be an invaluable resource throughout the year.

This school year also marks the beginning of our new three-year contract, running from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2029. After everything that went into reaching an agreement last spring, it always feels good knowing that we will not have to worry about negotiations or the potential for a strike to start the new school year.

I want to thank all of our members for the support you showed throughout the negotiation process. Negotiations may take place at the table, but the strength of our negotiating team comes from the membership standing behind them. As we begin this first year of the new agreement, there will undoubtedly be questions about how certain provisions work. Please make use of your Senior and Alternate Delegates, and don't hesitate to reach out to the ACT office if you have questions or concerns. One of our priorities throughout these three years will be making sure our members understand the contract and that it is being followed.

While we have a new contract in place, the work of ACT certainly does not stop. We will continue to listen to our members, address concerns as they arise, and work to improve the working environment for our teachers and the education we provide to our students.

Before the school year gets underway, I encourage everyone to enjoy these last few weeks of August. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone back in our schools!

James

IMPORTANT PAYROLL INFORMATION

- The final paycheck for teachers who are paid over twelve months is August 28, 2026.

(Please note there are 3 weeks between the final paycheck of 2025-2026 and the first paycheck of 2026-2027.)

- The first paycheck of the 2026-2027 school year is September 18, 2026.

SALARIES AND STIPENDS 2026-2027

STARTING SALARY FOR 2026-2027: The starting salary for the 2026-2027 school year is \$47,625.

SALARY INCREASE: There is a pay increase of \$2,025 for the 2026-2027 school year.

GUIDANCE DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEAD STIPEND: Guidance Directors and Department Heads in departments with three (3) or more full-time members shall receive a stipend of \$3,590. Department Heads in departments with two (2) full-time members who were appointed before the end of the 2022-2023 school year will receive \$3,590. Those department heads in departments with two (2) full-time members not appointed before the end of the 2022-2023 school year or newly appointed will receive a stipend of \$1,800.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES STIPEND: Schools with enrollment less than 700 - \$2,925; Schools with enrollment 700 or more - \$3,125.

TV DIRECTORS STIPEND: The TV Directors Stipend for the 2026-2027 school year is \$2,315.

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

If you received an advanced degree or additional credits over the summer, which qualifies you for payment under a different column of the salary scale, notify your school accountant immediately.

You must also send proof (an original transcript) of the degree/credit to Mr. James Molnar at the Office of Catholic Education so that the change in degree/credits can be verified.

For your records, it is highly recommended that all documents be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.

The five lanes of salary scale are

Bachelor's Degree
Bachelor's Degree + 18 Credits
Master's Degree
Double Master's Degree
Doctorate Degree

The teacher is responsible to provide timely notification to the System, with an official transcript.

Timely notification shall normally mean within one (1) year of acquiring the additional credits. Salary adjustments shall not be made retroactively for more than one (1) year.

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ACT UNION DUES FOR 2026-2027

The Union Dues for 2026-2027 School Year are \$666.75. For those on Check-off, a deduction of \$31.75 will begin with the September 18, 2026 pay and end with the pay of June 25, 2027.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: The ACT Office will return to normal office hours in September. **The hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 4:30 and Friday, 9:00 to 3:30.**

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you are in the process of moving, or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call the ACT Office with your new address and phone number.

EMAIL ADDRESS: If your personal email address has changed, please let us know as soon as possible. If you are not receiving our emails, please let us know.

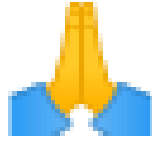
INSURANCE CARDS: If you need a new dental, medical or vision card, contact Ginny at ginny@act1776.com.



MOREY'S PIERS, WILDWOOD, NJ

ACT Members and their families can receive discounts at Morey's Piers in Wildwood, NJ by logging onto moreyspiers.com/corporatepartner and entering discount code **AOCT25**.

REST IN PEACE



Margaret Deckman, retired, Roman Catholic High School
Jack Diamond, retired, Archbishop Wood High School
Richard Luyster, retired, Cardinal O'Hara High School
Gerald Whartenby, retired, Archbishop Ryan High School

*ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON
THEM. MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.*

Enjoy the Remaining Days of Summer.



We look forward to seeing you in September!