

THE

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The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

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Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **AUGUST 2019**



From the President's Desk

CONSTRUCTION RESULTS

It is August already. Summer is moving much too fast.

School may not be in session, but there is always work to do at the ACT Office. A large part of our summer has been devoted to working with the System's HR Manager trying to reinstate the 18 teachers who left the June 13 Constriction Meeting without a permanent position, as well as getting constricted teachers back to their original schools.

I am happy to report that, as of today, only three teachers have not been placed in a permanent position. Hopefully, they will be back to work as the school year begins.

No positions were given back to the constricted schools, so the openings have come primarily from teachers resigning to accept positions outside the System, 31 at last count.

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It is tremendously important for teachers, constricted from their schools because of declining enrollment, to be afforded the greatest chance of selecting a roster for which they have competency. For Constriction, teachers must have the competency or competencies in order to select the roster.

It is always frustrating when teachers leave the Constriction Meeting without a position, especially when there are rosters remaining on the Constriction Board. Unfortunately, some of these rosters contain what we call “brain surgery/cosmetology” combinations.

Two of the rosters remaining on the Board this year were

4 Algebra II and 1 Public Speaking
4 Business and 1 Physics 9

These were rosters that did not exist during the 2018-2019 school year. The teachers in those positions this past school year taught 5 Math and 5 Business. The schools made the change when the rosters were sent in to the Constriction Board. The two schools were emphatic that they could not change the Public Speaking or the Physics 9 when asked to do so by the Office of Catholic Education. The Association repeatedly pushed for the rosters to be changed because, with almost 50 teachers affected by Constriction, these two rosters were critical. Unfortunately, ACT's attempts to change these rosters were to no avail. The schools were permitted by the System to post positions that could not be selected by a Math or Business teacher, resulting in two teachers being laid off. FYI - one of the three remaining laid-off teachers is a Business teacher.

The Association will continue to monitor the Constriction Process. Even after the school year begins, constricted teachers will be contacted as openings occur, especially if they filed for a Hardship.

We hope you enjoy the remaining days of the summer break.

Rita

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held on June 17, 2019.

HB358: Concurrent Enrollment Agreements

To increase educational opportunities, the bill would provide definitions and responsibilities for concurrent enrollment agreements. The agreements would be with institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth. "Concurrent Students" would be enrolled in the program of study. **Last action:** Laid on the PA House table, May 13, 2019

HB357: Charter School Enrollment

A bill allowing for transfer of attendance records to a school entity or nonpublic school.
Last action: Laid on the PA House table, May 13, 2018.

HB356: Charter School Requirements

The law would further define Charter School requirements from school districts and intermediate units' responsibilities.
Last action: Laid on PA House table (sent to the committee), May 13, 2019.

HB1423: School Safety and Security

The bill would provide for school safety and security training; providing for threat assessment and, in school health services, provide additional confidentiality, transference and removal of certain health records.
Last action: To be voted on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 during the House Education Committee meeting.

PA Senate Resolution 34: Global Education Task Force

Goal is to achieve "Global Competence" in the areas of knowledge and understanding of diverse cultural issues and diverse cultural backgrounds. Passed the Senate Education Committee on March 19, 2019 with an 11-0 vote.
Last action: Removed from Senate table (placed on the legislative calendar), May 1, 2019.

SB362: Basic Education Formula

Determining guidelines for reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for student-weighted basic education funding. Of interest to tax-payer watchdog groups for future interests regarding property taxes.
Last action: Referred to the Senate Education Committee on March 3, 2019.

CONTRACT CHANGES FOR 2019-2020

In accordance with the Labor-Management Agreement, rosters must be sent to teachers 30 days before the opening of the school year. That makes August 3 the 30 day mark. Since it is a Saturday, the operative day is August 2. ACT has not heard from any school as yet that their rosters may be late.

There are some contractual changes that go into effect with the 2019-2020 school year.

ARTICLE VIII, Section 6

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, teachers shall not be assigned classes which require more than three (3) preparations in schools with an enrollment fewer than 600 students. In schools with an enrollment greater than 601 students, teachers shall not be assigned classes which require more than two (2) preparations.

[Existing language: Every effort shall be made not to place an undue burden on the teacher by assigning multiple subject areas and grade levels. Multiple level designations shall only be assigned for serious and compelling reasons. Four academic levels in any subject area or grade level is two (2) preparations.]

ARTICLE IX, Section 10b

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the number of students per teacher in a study period or cafeteria are, under usual circumstances

Study Period	90 to 1
	[previously 100 to 1]
Cafeteria	160 to 1
	[previously 175 to 1]

ARTICLE X, Section 4

Major Extra-Curricular Activities Stipend

Schools less than 900	\$2,350
Schools 900 or above	\$2,550

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CONTRACT CHANGES FOR 2019-2020 . . . (Continued from page 4)

ARTICLE XI, Section 1

Effective September, 2019, departments with two or more full-time faculty members and the Guidance Department shall be assigned a department head.

ARTICLE XII, Section 1 Pay increase of \$1,200

Starting Salary \$40,200

Section 4	Department Heads	\$3,000
Section 5	TV Directors	\$1,850
Section 6	Computer Resource Person	\$2,025

ARTICLE XIII No change in Medical Premium Co-pay

ACT Congratulates Margaret Goldschmidt (John W. Hallahan)
on her retirement from the Secondary School System
after 19 years of service to the students in the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

SALARIES AND STIPENDS

for the 2019–2020 School Year

SALARY: The starting salary under the Basic Scale Level 1 for full-time lay teachers is \$40,200. For all other teachers, there is a pay increase of \$1,200 over the 2018-2019 salary.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR STIPEND: Beginning on September 1, 2019 Guidance Directors and Department Heads of two or more full-time members shall receive \$3,000 beyond the Salary Scale.

TV DIRECTORS STIPEND: Beginning on September 1, 2019, TV Directors shall receive \$1,850 beyond the Salary Scale.

COMPUTER RESOURCE PERSON: Beginning on September 1, 2019, Computer Resource Persons shall receive \$2,025 beyond the Salary Scale.

The last pay for the 2018-2019 school year for teachers on 12-month pay distribution will occur on Friday, August 30, 2019. The first pay for the 2019-2020 school year will occur on Friday, September 13, 2019.



RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations go out to **Gregory Jasillo**, teacher at Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford. Greg is celebrating 25 years of service to the students of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Presenting Greg with a Recognition Plaque, and pictured on the right is fellow JPII teacher and ACT Senior Delegate, Eric Wahl.



NOTE OF THANKS . . .

ACT John J. Reilly Scholarship Award

“Each year, the Association’s Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9th grader in each Archdiocesan high school who has the highest general average as of the end of the first semester. If that student is already on scholarship, it is given to the highest student not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student’s 10th grade tuition.”

Dear Ms. Schwartz

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Association of Catholic Teachers for the \$500 scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year. It is an honor to be chosen to receive this scholarship and is a blessing to me and my family.

Thank you,

Brooke Campbell

SS John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School

IN RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to **Kaleigh Timothy from Archbishop Carroll High School**. Kaleigh will receive a \$500 Scholarship from the Association of Catholic Teachers to be applied to her tenth grade tuition. Keep up the good work, Kaleigh!

SUMMER DENTAL TIPS

BE PREPARED AND READY FOR ANYTHING WITH THESE TIPS

FROM THE EXPERTS AT UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL

1. ENFORCE POOL SAFETY: Many dental offices see a rise in dental emergencies due to pool injuries during the summer months. Accidents occur when children hit the concrete ledge of the pool while swimming or trying to jump in or out of the pool. Others happen while running on slippery pool decks or diving into shallow areas of the pool. If an accident occurs, get to the dentist as soon as possible. It is recommended that you do the following: **If a tooth has been knocked loose**, gently move it into its original position and use a light finger pressure to keep it in place until you get to the dentist. **If a tooth has been knocked out of the mouth completely**, the Academy of General Dentistry says to pick the tooth up by the crown (don't touch the root). If you can't put the tooth back into its socket, put it in a container with a lid and keep it moist with milk, saliva or saline solution and get to a dentist as soon as possible.

2. PREPARE A DENTAL EMERGENCY KIT: Be prepared and keep a dental emergency kit in your car and/or your beach bag. **The kit should include the following:** Card with your dentist's phone number (both their office and emergency numbers), gauze, handkerchiefs, saline solution, small container with lid.

3. REQUIRE SPORTS SAFETY: Wear a mouthguard! Sports injuries usually involve broken or chipped front teeth, fractured roots and cut lips. Many of these injuries can be prevented by wearing a mouthguard. If your child wears braces, a mouthguard will help prevent soft tissue cuts and will help to protect the braces.

4. ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SUMMER SNACKS: Keep the fridge stocked with cheeses, yogurts, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Avoid or limit sodas and sweet juices. Water and milk are the better alternatives.

5. MONITOR SUMMER ORAL HYGIENE: Make sure the kids don't take a "summer break" from brushing their teeth. Brushing teeth after breakfast and before bed should be enforced as well as flossing once a day. Remember to pack new toothbrushes and toothpaste when traveling. It is also a good idea to keep disposable brushes and toothpaste in the car.

6. SCHEDULE CHECKUPS: Summer is a great time to visit the dentist since it is easier to schedule checkups during the school break.

Create your path to well-being











Bring healthy habits within reach

Your well-being journey is personal. Whether you want to eat healthier, manage stress better, be more active, or just get some more sleep, your goals are unique to you.

Achieve Well-being from Independence Blue Cross is a motivating and personalized set of well-being tools and resources that can help you achieve what's important to you in a way that's simple, easy, and fun.

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Independence Blue Cross offers products through its subsidiaries Independence Hospital Indemnity Plan, Keystone Health Plan East and QCC Insurance Company, and with Highmark Blue Shield — independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



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MOVIE TICKETS

ACT Office keeps a limited supply of movie tickets on hand for teachers to purchase at a discounted rate. We have REGAL/UNITED ARTISTS and AMC Tickets Available. **AMC Tickets are \$10.50 per ticket. Regal Tickets are \$9.25 per ticket.** If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with your request. [An order form can be found on the ACT website at www.act1776.com](#). Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION WEEKEND IN WILDWOOD

MOREY'S PIERS IN WILDWOOD will be offering their Educator Appreciation Weekend on **August 24th and 25th**. Teachers with a school ID or paystub can receive one free admission to the piers and waterparks. You can also purchase discounted tickets for friends and family.

ACT Members and their families are able to receive discounts at **Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ, Clementon Amusement Park in Clementon, NJ, and Morey's Piers in Wildwood, NJ** throughout the summer. In order to receive the discounts, you must have a code specific to our group when ordering your tickets. If you will be visiting any of the above venues, please email or call Ginny for your savings code.

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: The ACT Office will operate on a summer schedule beginning June 17, 2019 through the month of August. **The hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 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. You can also visit the ACT Webpage and log-on to your personal page to update your information.

IF YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, OR WILL CHANGE OVER THE SUMMER, PLEASE NOTIFY THE ACT OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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

FREEDOM CREDIT UNION – The Freedom Credit Union offers teachers and their families a wide range of financial opportunities. For more information visit the credit union's website at www.freedomcu.org. The phone number for the Freedom Credit Union is 215-612-5900.