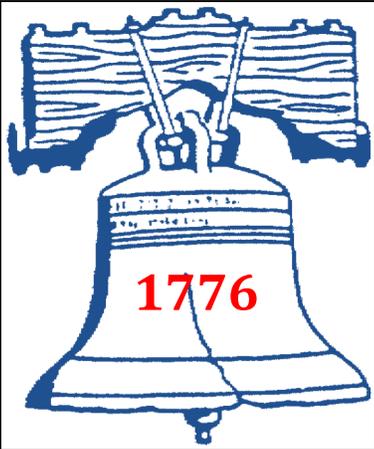


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The Association of Catholic Teachers



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Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **MAY-JUNE 2021**



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT!



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Each and every one of you did an absolutely outstanding teaching job during this very challenging, never-before-seen, and, hopefully, never-to-be-seen again school year. You have given well beyond 100% of yourselves every day in the classroom. Your endurance has been amazing. You should be very proud of all that you have accomplished during this unbelievably difficult year. **If it was within my power to evaluate your performance this year, I would rate each and every one of you as Distinguished in each domain and on the Summative Page.** My only recommendation would be that you don't have to go through another school year like this one.

I am sure that all of you are extremely happy that you have reached the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Enjoy your summer. **Your only job for the next three months is to relax. You earned it.**



From the President's Desk

WHAT A SCHOOL YEAR THIS HAS BEEN

We have reached the end of another school year, probably the most unusual one for all of us. We have survived the pandemic and a year of hybrid teaching, masks and/or shields being a standard part of our everyday wardrobe, doing everything via Zoom, the announcement that two of our beloved schools are closing, several quarantines, the hope we felt when a vaccination became available, and another year of Constriction.

Speaking of Constriction, the Constriction Meeting was held on Monday, June 14th. Even though it is never easy to be constricted and uprooted from your school, this year's Constriction was very bittersweet for the teachers at Hallahan and McDevitt. As each of them chose their new position, they did so knowing that this is the last time they will be together as a school community. Next year, the teachers in these two schools will be scattered throughout the remaining fifteen schools in the System. To their credit, if at all possible, the teachers at Hallahan and McDevitt chose positions that allowed them to follow their students to the students' new schools. Several of the McDevitt teachers will go to Wood, while a few of the Hallahan teachers will be teaching at Neumann-Goretti and Little Flower next year. There is comfort knowing that there will be familiar faces, both students and colleagues, when they walk into their new school in September.

At the end of the Constriction Meeting, of the 46 teachers whose names appeared on the List, 34 chose a position, 6 were reinstated and 6 are currently laid off. Hopefully, the laid off teachers will have a permanent position by the time schools open in September.

Finally, I want to let you know that a Special General Membership Meeting will be scheduled over the summer break. The only item on the Agenda will be voting on the Temporary Union Fee Assessment. The survey option chosen by most of the teachers was to add \$2.65 per pay to the \$26.93 per pay deduction from this school year. As soon as the Special General Membership Meeting is scheduled, notification of the meeting date, time and location will be emailed to you.

I promise that this will be the only day that I ask you to do something other than relax after this exhausting school year.

Now, go and enjoy your summer. You have certainly earned it!

Irene

Executive Board Area Vice President Election Results

There was a contested election in the [Northwest](#) Area. Elections were held in the affected schools. The Nominations and Elections Committee verified and tabulated the ballots at the ACT Office on May 24, 2021. The results are listed below.

Northwest Area:	Eric Wahl (Pope John Paul II)	22
	Christopher Whelan (Bishop McDevitt)	53

Congratulations to [Christopher Whelan](#)
on his election to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board would like to thank [Tara Murphy](#)



for all her hard work while on the Executive Board.

The ACT Executive Board wishes to thank the Nominations and Elections Committee, [Glen Galeone](#), Chairperson (Ryan), [Anne Boland](#) (Little Flower), [Dolly Burdziak](#) (McDevitt), [James Flannery](#) (Roman), [Devin Gallagher](#) (Carroll), [Richard Knowlton](#) (Carroll), [Katherine Nobles-McGuire](#) (Wood), [Beth Sagers](#) (Shanahan), and [Fred Vietri](#) (Shanahan) for all their hard work this election cycle.

SENIOR DELEGATE ELECTIONS HELD

The following members have been elected Senior Delegate for the 2021-2022 school year.

Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast	James Vernon
Abp. Carroll	Louis Valenti
Conwell-Egan	Christine Hanley-Maldonado
St. Hubert	John Masluk
Father Judge	Anthony Perrucci
Lansdale Catholic	
Little Flower	Arnold Ronzoni
SS. John Neumann-Goretti	Harry Olafsen
Cardinal O'Hara	Thomas Imburgia
Pope John Paul II	Eric Wahl
Roman Catholic	James Brennan
Archbishop Ryan	Glen Galeone
Bishop Shanahan	Frank Costantini
West Catholic	Teresa McGill
Archbishop Wood	Tara Murphy

NOTE: ACT wishes to recognize and give special thanks to our outgoing Senior Delegates: [Rosanne Betham](#) (JH), [Rita Di Benedetto](#) (NG), [Amy MacKay](#) (LC) and [Christopher Whelan](#) (McD).

We would also like to recognize our outgoing Alternate Delegates: [Lisa Borg](#) (CE), [Michael Gallagher](#) (JH), [Evelyn Griffith](#) (AW), [Joan Kearney](#) (McD), and [Brittney Padget](#) (NG).

NOTE: A special welcome to our new Senior Delegate: [Harry Olafsen](#).

We would also like to welcome our new Alternate Delegates: [Evan Ortiz](#) (CE), [Beth Saggars](#) (BS), [Christine Swift](#) (NG), [Joseph Webb](#) (AW), and [Robert Wills](#) (CO).

Sabbaticals Awarded for 2021-2022 School Year

Two ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2021-2022 school year. One full year sabbatical is available. Two teachers are receiving one semester each.

The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were Christine Hanley-Maldonado (ACT Staff), and Tom Imburgia (O'Hara). Representing OCE were Dr. Patricia Rigby (Asst. Superintendent for Secondary Schools), Nancy Kurtz (Asst. Superintendent for Secondary Schools), and James Molnar (HR Director for Secondary Schools).

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

[Eugene Murphy](#) (28 years) -- Archbishop Carroll High School (one semester)

[Heather Timmons](#) (22 years) – Pope John Paul II High school (one semester)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The *pre-opening of school* Professional Development Days (Article IX) for the 2021-2022 school year will be two out of the three days from August 31 to September 2, 2021. The two days will be consecutive.



John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarships Awarded

Each year NACST awards two (2) \$4,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per year for each year of college) to children of **NACST** members. This year, the two recipients of the John J. Reilly Scholarship are both from ACT.

At this time, we wish to congratulate [Justin Hartranft](#) whose mother, Sharon, teaches at Archbishop Wood High School and [Andrew McGovern](#) whose mother, Kristie, teaches at Father Judge High School. A National Review Committee selected Justin and Andrew as this year's top scholars, earning each of them a \$4,000 scholarship over their four years of college.

ACT is proud of your hard work and dedication that earned you this Scholarship. We wish you all the best as you embark on your college career.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting on May 19, 2021 via Zoom.

I. HB 951: Statutes of Limitations for Sexual Abuse Victims w/ A00786 (Amendment)
providing for language changes ****No change since April 21st Update****

Specifics: Create a 2-year window for civil lawsuits to be filed. If under age 18 when incident/abuse occurred, add 37 years to age for eligible time period to file; if ages 18-24 when incident/abuse occurred, individuals would have until they reach age 30 to file civil action.

II. SB381: Substitute Teaching Permit

An act providing for substitute teaching permits for prospective teachers with regards to certification.

Last action: Referred to the House Education Committee on April 21, 2021.

III. HB602: Career/Tech Ed

An act providing for the Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program in secondary education. **Last action:** Re-committed to the House Appropriations Committee on May 5, 2021.

IV. HB1041: Home Education Programs

An act (also known as Homeschool Hybrid Educational Access Act) further providing for home education program and attendance of pupils in extra curricular and co-curricular school activities.

Last action: Re-committed to the House Appropriations Committee on May 5, 2021.

V. HB1013: Keystone Exams/Graduation Requirements

An act providing preliminary provisions for Keystone Exams and secondary graduation requirements.

Last action: Re-committed to the House Appropriations Committee on May 5, 2021.

VI. SB664: Extended Special Education Enrollment

An act providing for extended special education enrollment due to COVID-19; providing for an optional year of education due to COVID-19.

Last action: Third consideration and final passage PA Senate on May 12, 2021. (48-0 Vote)

VII. SB83: Firefighter/EMS Training

An act establishing a firefighter/EMS training program for high school students. This would be a pilot program; also provide for a Fire Training Fund.

Last action: Referred to the House Education Committee on April 29, 2021.

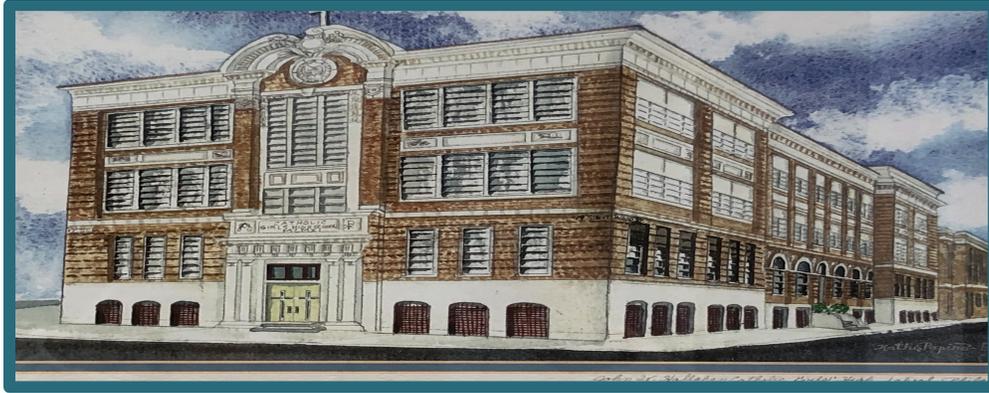
VIII. HB1332: Curriculum Transparency

An act providing online curriculum availability for all public school districts. The curriculum and textbook used for the upcoming school year would be available to review by the summer prior to the start of school for each district. **Last action:** Referred to the House Education Committee on May 5, 2021

IX. House Education Committee Meeting

Monday April 26, 2021

Topic: Informational meeting regarding Pennsylvania Department of Education Academic Accountability during COVID-19 Pandemic.



***JOHN W. HALLAHAN CATHOLIC GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, FIRST ALL GIRLS
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY, SET TO CLOSE IN JUNE.***

*“There is an urgent need for the establishment, in the city of Philadelphia,
of a Catholic high school for girls”
Rev. John Shanahan
1895 annual report.*

The future was bright for the young women of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. When the doors of Hallahan opened on September 8, 1912, it was not just the beginning of a school building, but the beginning of a sisterhood. For over 100 years, John W. Hallahan has been educating young women filled with faith, purpose and vision.

Hallahan has a long history of providing a faith-filled experience for its students. From multiple Masses held at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, to Ring Mass and Baccalaureate, Hallahan girls were always visible in the faith community.

Hallahan girls know the meaning of Christian service both to each other and to the surrounding community. Over the years, you could see girls of the Hallahan High tutor each other and those in younger grades. They have been active in the Community Service Corps and the Pro-Life movement.

They have always been special young women. On October 1, 2001, then Pope John Paul II granted a special Apostolic Blessing on our school community to celebrate our 100th anniversary. This blessing was a “pledge of divine protection.” As we go our separate ways, we are still hopeful and praying for divine protection.

Throughout Hallahan's history, its young women have always embraced their sense of purpose. Whether supporting our troops in the World War II era by accruing \$525,000 in stamps and bonds or writing to those serving in Vietnam, they have proven their commitment.

We see our girls running clothing, food and blood drives to serve their Philadelphia community. We watch as they become involved in social justice issues. We hear their voices loud and clear.

(Continued on Page 8)

JOHN W. HALLAHAN CATHOLIC GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 7)

A Hallahan girl's desire to serve and live with purpose will not end when the doors close. The tradition will survive.

Hallahan girls are well known for their optimistic view of their future. The faculty and staff have worked diligently to prepare them for a world outside of our sacred Center City doors. On December 11, 2001, President George W. Bush acknowledged the work of the Hallahan community. He wrote, "Throughout the years, your faculty and staff have prepared young people in your community for the responsibilities that lie ahead".

This can surely be seen in the achievements that our girls make on a constant basis. This year alone, our seniors have accrued a staggering amount of scholarships. Our 90 graduating seniors have been awarded 30.4 million dollars in scholarships.

Even though many of our current sisters will not receive a diploma from their beloved school, each one of them has a bright future ahead of them, and are poised/destined to make great contributions to society. In their hearts, they will always remain girls of the Hallahan High.

The vision of Mary McMichan has come to fruition, but our school has come to its end. John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School will not only be remembered for the education of thousands of young women, but for its treasured traditions. Hallahan will always be the school that jumps in the fountain at the end of each school year, the only school with Mickey Mouse as their mascot, the colored shoe laces, and so many more. At the end of the day, the Hallahan sisterhood is not a building, it is a promise.

This promise will live on.

Submitted by,
Rosanne Betham, Senior Delegate
John W. Hallahan Girls' High School

ACT WEBSITE

All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website (www.act1776.com) and verify your personal information. It is critical that we have your current information and that it is accurate. **It is important that we have a PERSONAL email address for you**, since Executive Board Minutes, Newsletters, and other pertinent information will be sent via email. We cannot and will not send email to a school email address.

Every teacher was provided with a username and password for the ACT Website. If you do not have this information, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or email her at ginny@act1776.com and she can provide this information to you. To update your personal information, logon to the ACT Website and, in the upper right hand corner of the homepage, click on member login. Type in your username and password and then verify the information on file. Any changes made will be sent to the ACT Office automatically.

BISHOP MCDEVITT HIGH SCHOOL SET TO CLOSE IN JUNE



English teachers write quite a bit, but of all the things I have written these are probably the most difficult words I have ever had to compose. How does one begin to say goodbye to a school that

has been a home for so many years? When this school year started, the faculty was grateful just to be back in the building after narrowly avoiding a strike. Many of our teachers had spent the summer working on our COVID reopening plan, and we were so proud of the work they had done to keep teachers, staff and students safe. So much was lost due to the pandemic, and now the darkness is turning to light. Now, another blow has come our way, the final closing of our home, Bishop McDevitt High School. In my time here, I have had the privilege of working with some of the most talented men and women in education. My mentors became friends, and friends became family. It is often said that places of work are “like family”, and I assert that this is true at our school. We laugh like family, celebrate like family, and sometimes disagree like family, but overall, we love each other as family.

At the center of our family, of course, are the students we teach. Though our halls have been quieter this year, I ponder the echoes of students from the past 63 years as I work alone in my room thinking of the past and present without a future, now. So many wonderful memories rush in! We have been strengthened in our faith by Mass, prayers before classes and meals, the Living Rosary, the Stations of the Cross and Meditations. Each student in this building was able to find a place to be himself/herself. We have been a haven for young people to find their talents and their way into the next part of their lives. I am so proud to have been a part of this journey. We found joy in dancing with the teachers, the Royal Masque Broadway productions, the pep rallies, proms, clubs, sporting events, Christmas Sing-Alongs, Spirit Weeks and the list goes on and on.

It is with humble gratitude that I will be leaving Bishop McDevitt High School on June 18th. I have been a Lancer for twenty years, and although I know I will find a new “home”, I will forever treasure the memories and friendships I have from 125 Royal Ave. It is my sincere desire that the students that we have educated here, and all who have walked these halls in friendship, will heed the words of our beloved Alma Mater, “May faith and courage be our guide, God our final goal” until we meet again in the Kingdom of God.

**Submitted by,
Ellie Luby
English teacher and Department Head
Bishop McDevitt High School**

CONGRATULATING OUR NEW RETIREES

Congratulations to the following teachers on their retirement from the Secondary School System: **Mary Jane Ansley** (Bishop Shanahan), **Dorothy Burdziak** (Bishop McDevitt), **Kathleen Capriotti** (Bishop Shanahan), **Eugene Carboni** (Father Judge), **Kathleen DiDonato** (St. Hubert), **Donald Florek** (Bishop Shanahan), **Edith Kirk** (Archbishop Ryan), **Thomas McKeever** (Roman Catholic), **Mary Reil** (St. Hubert), **John Student** (Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast), **Krystyna Szymanski** (Bishop Shanahan), **Kathleen Szymborski** (Archbishop Ryan), **Alfred Vietri** (Bishop Shanahan), **Kevin Waters** (Archbishop Carroll), and **Sharon Williams** (Lansdale Catholic).

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Retirement!

Happy Father's Day



to all of our members who are fathers.

Enjoy the day set aside in your honor!

MOVIE TICKETS

The ACT Office has 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.

TEACHERS IN THE NEWS

The Philadelphia **Phillies** recently recognized great educators in the region who are making a difference during their 21st annual *Teacher Appreciation Night*.

Congratulations to Mike Fiocco who teaches Physics at Father Judge High School.

Mike was one of 10 local teachers selected as an **All-Star Teacher**.

Congratulations to Maria Murray who teaches Social Studies at Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls.

Maria was voted **Little Flower's Coolest Teacher** in 93.3 WMMR Philadelphia's Preston and Steve Show "Coolest Teacher" Competition.

FYI: The final paycheck for teachers who are paid over twelve months is September 3, 2021.

+ Rest in Peace +

+ Kathryn Bauman, retired, St. Pius X High School +

+ Daniel J. Dwyer, retired, Father Judge High School +

+ John Scioli, retired, Archbishop Ryan High School +

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Beginning June 21, 2021, the ACT Office will operate on a summer schedule. The hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30, and Friday 9:30-3:00.

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.

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.

MOREYS PIERS, WILDWOOD, NJ

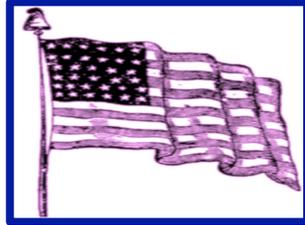


Members of ACT are able to purchase Moreys Piers tickets at a discounted rate by logging onto www.moreyspiers.com/corporate-codes and entering **1776** for the login ID.

The discounted rates are as follows:

- Ride and Waterpark Flex Ticket \$84.15 (regular price \$99).
- Ride and Waterpark Same Day Ticket \$75.65 (regular price \$89).
- Waterpark ticket only \$50.15 (regular price is \$59).
- Amusement Park ticket only \$50.15 (regular price \$59).

You're a Grand Ole Flag

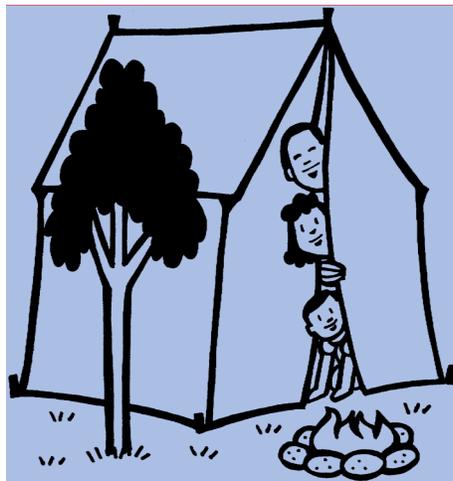


Happy Flag Day - June 14, 2021

**To all those who served our country
and made the ultimate sacrifice,**

Thank you.

Enjoy your summer!



*On behalf of all of the students whose
lives you make better –*

Thank You!