

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CHRONICLE

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A quarterly newsletter provided by Catapult Learning, *The Superintendent's Chronicle* offers Catholic school leaders at the chancery-level current insights, ideas, and information about the landscape of Catholic schools and helpful tools for addressing emerging challenges.

HAPPY EASTER! May these Easter days be a source of renewal and new life for all.



Summer Conference Opportunity: Ministry to LGBTQ+ Persons

The Marianist Social Justice Collaborative will host a summer conference from Thursday June 27 to Sunday, June 30, 2024, at the Bergamo Center in Dayton, OH. "Imago Dei: Embracing the Dignity of LGBTQ+ Persons" aims to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a 1974 groundbreaking conference centered on LGBTQ+ inclusion and ministry which was held in Dayton at the Bergamo Center. The conference hopes to honor those who foresaw the importance of developing pastoral care and outreach, and to envision how we can continue to respond to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community within our Church and world. More information is available [here](#).

Recently Appointed Superintendents & Central Office Leaders

Congratulations and best wishes to the following new diocesan leaders from:

Diocese of Fairbanks	Frank Ostanik
Dioceses of Great Falls/ Billings & Helena	Christina Vierra McGill
Archdiocese of Cincinnati	Matt Daniels
Archdiocese of San Francisco	Chris Fisher

Recently Retired Superintendents

We honor and celebrate the years of service, witness, and formation provided by recently retired superintendents, including:

Diocese of San Bernadino	Sam Torres
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While continuing to serve this school year, the following leaders announced that this would be their last year, including:

Diocese of Charleston	Bill Ryan
Diocese of Monterey	Kimberly Cheng
Diocese of Orlando	Henry Fortier
Diocese of Youngstown	Mary Fiala
Diocese of Providence	James Power

Readers are welcome to send any updates to Fr. Ron Nuzzi ron.nuzzi@catapultlearning.com or at 330.652.7944).

Free Catholic Courses Online

Ave Maria University, based in the Diocese of Venice, FL, has begun offering a series of free online courses, delivered by university faculty. “The Pursuit of Wisdom” includes seven videos that focus on helping Catholics seek practical wisdom while reflecting of the true, the good, and the beautiful. Each video is between one to three hours long and is structured into smaller lessons for ease of viewing. Topics include artificial intelligence, motherhood, stewardship, the environment, J.R.R. Tolkien, scholars and saints, and the foundations of America. For more information, click [here](#) or download the app [here](#).

Catholic Trade Schools: A New Trend

Catholic News Agency (CNA) recently reported on the emergence of Catholic trade schools, post-secondary educational and training programs designed to teach specific, high demand skills in the trades. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has long been a leader in this field with its extraordinarily successful [Mercy Career and Technical High School](#). Leaders of new Catholic trade schools across the U.S. say they are offering a new path for students who do not want to take on crippling debt from traditional four-year colleges by training them in a skill, cultivating their faith, and doing it all affordably. Four examples of successful efforts were found in Orange County, CA (Santiago Trade School), Steubenville, OH (College of St. Joseph the Worker), Grand Rapids, MI (Harmel Academy), and Gallup, NM (Kateri College). For more information, [click here](#).

empowerU

Resilience • Persistence • Success

Increase Student Motivation, Mental Health & Success Through EmpowerU

Mental health needs for students, faculties, and families have skyrocketed recently for a variety of reasons. Such non-academic barriers to learning are crucial to overcome to help support student success. EmpowerU's highly personalized, data-driven Tier 1 and Tier 2 solutions equip students with the skills they need to be resilient, self-directed learners and reach their goals. A blended approach of online lessons with robust embedded coaching helps expand school capacity to meet the urgent need to support student wellbeing and mental health. For more information, click [here](#).

Coaching Isn't Just for Teachers: Calling All Pastors & Principals

Professional, job-embedded coaching is increasingly a preferred support and intervention strategy for teachers. However, principals and pastors can benefit from coaching as well. Recent research clearly distinguishes the differences between teacher coaching and principal coaching, and identifies certain leverage points that give principal coaching power and potential impact. For more information, click [here](#).

While coaching for pastors is relatively new in the Catholic sector, other Christian denominations have found success and stability in such efforts. For more information, click [here](#).

The Catholic Leadership Institute in Malvern, PA specializes in pastoral leadership formation and offers consulting services to parishes, including leadership coaching. For more information, click [here](#).

Revisiting the Use of the SAT for its Predictive Value

Since the COVID pandemic, many institutions of higher learning, including some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities stopped requiring the SAT or other standardized tests as part of the application process for new students. With a few years of experience without a standardized test metric, research is now questioning that practice and affirming that such tests are indeed the best predictor of success in college. For more information, click [here](#).

There appears to be little relationship between high school grade point average and success in college. The researchers found a strong relationship between test scores and later success, however. High school grades do not provide an accurate assessment of students' abilities, as so many high schoolers now receive As. For more information, click [here](#).

The Value and Virtue of Reading Aloud

With considerable energy being devoted to the Science of Reading and the decoding skills associated with it, some scholars, students, parents, and teachers are building on that initiative by emphasizing reading aloud. Parents have long known and practiced such reading at home, but recent studies show that the practice is less common in classrooms. Teachers value reading aloud, but the data are unclear if it is widely practiced. A 2019 study famously cited the “million word gap,” describing the vocabulary exposure of children who are read to regularly versus those who are not. For more information, click [here](#).

For ideas on encouraging teachers to demonstrate the joy of reading to students, click [here](#).

Professional Development Program for Diocesan & System Leaders

Boston College’s Roche Center for Catholic Education and Catapult Learning collaborate in supporting a professional learning community (PLC) for diocesan superintendents and network CEOs. The group meets monthly via Zoom to share prayer, best practices, emerging research, and familiar challenges. Two in-person retreats are held annually, one in the winter and another in fall.

For more information about joining, please contact [Dr. Melodie Wyttenbach](#) at Boston College, [Fr. Ron Nuzzi](#) at Catapult Learning or click [here](#).

IDEA & CHILD FIND

Spring is an opportune time to revisit federal equitable services provisions in ESSA, IDEA, and even more localized state and district policies and procedures. Recall that IDEA requires that districts identify, locate, and evaluate students in private schools suspected of having a disability. For more information, click [here](#).

For helpful strategies regarding IDEA consultation and safeguards, click [here](#). (free webinars & publications available)

Signature School Improvement Process

Looking for a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to school improvement? Catapult Learning’s Collaborative Quality Analysis (CQA) might be just the answer. With a variety of data gathering and assessment techniques, the CQA offers insight into strengths and opportunities while providing clear next steps for accelerating school improvement.

For more information, click [here](#).

A Catholic school’s legacy rests on the strength and security of the school’s operation. Catapult Learning has created the Operational Vitality Protocol to help our Catholic school partners sustain their operational viability without forfeiting the academic quality and excellence of the Catholic tradition. Our coalition of educators is committed to keeping Catholic schools viable, sustainable, and poised for longevity. We prepare our partners to deal with the hard decisions and challenges surrounding education today. Recent CQA activities have been conducted in the archdioceses of Miami and Chicago, and in the dioceses of Gaylord, Paterson, and Sioux City. For more information, contact ron.valenti@catapultlearning.com. For a quick school assessment with instant feedback, click [here](#).

Studying the Pandemic’s Continuing Effect on Student Achievement

Curriculum Associates looked at all pre- and post-test iReady scores of 9.5 million students in reading and 11.1 million students in math. As of Spring 2023, student achievement continued to fall below pre-pandemic levels. Fewer students are demonstrating the understanding expected of their grade level, and more students are performing below their grade level. While some students have shown signs of potential recovery, math growth has stalled. Setting ambitious goals and providing students with supplemental supports are among the evidence-based efforts that have helped students reach appropriate grade-level achievement. A summary of the research can be found [here](#).

For Pastors of Parishes with a Catholic School



The University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education will hold its annual summer conference, School Pastors' Institute (SPI) the week of July 8-11, 2024. The SPI annual summer conference addresses the increasingly complex challenges and opportunities that are part of serving as a pastor of a parish with a Catholic School. SPI is animated by its mission to embrace, educate and empower children, families, educators, leaders and pastors serving in Catholic schools.

The SPI conference is rooted in three key areas:

- the pastor as spiritual leader
- the pastor and principal relationship
- the critical role of the pastor in the Catholic School

The summer conference offers participants the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of topics relevant to priests who serve in a parish-school context and will be held on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, July 8-11, 2024. The registration fee is \$850.00 and includes all meals, accommodations in a local hotel and materials.

For more information or to register click [here](#).

Registration is now open until May 31, 2024.

Disagreeing with Your LEA Regarding Equitable Services

To help ensure equitable services and other benefits for eligible private school children, teachers and other educational personnel, and families, a State educational association (SEA) must designate an ombudsman to monitor and enforce equitable services requirements under both Title I and Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA sections 1117(a)(3)(B) and 8501(a)(3)(B)). To identify your state ombudsman and their contact information, click [here](#).

May I Share This Newsletter with Catholic School Principals?

A number of superintendents have made this inquiry. The answer is yes. Absolutely yes. Please be most welcome to forward or print copies for principals, pastors, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders, such as school councils, boards, PTOs, and the like. All back issues are also posted and available to all [here](#).

ESSER, GEER, AND EANS DEADLINES

With all of the various funding streams made available during the COVID 19 pandemic, it is easy to confuse deadlines for obligation and liquidation. And now that some extensions are available that will allow for ongoing services, it is important to address new deadlines that could extend some services well into the future. The table below summarizes the relevant dates for each funding stream. Note that ARP EANS (or EANS II as some call it) has an obligation deadline in September 2024, but a possible liquidation extension of March **2026**.

Program	Obligation deadline	(Automatic) 120-day liquidation deadline	(Up to) 14-month liquidation extension
ESSER I	Sep. 30, 2022	Jan. 30, 2023	Apr. 1, 2024
ESSER II	Sep. 30, 2023	Jan. 29, 2024	Mar. 31, 2025
ARP ESSER	Sep. 30, 2024	Jan. 28, 2025	Mar. 31, 2026
GEER I	Sep. 30, 2022	Jan. 30, 2023	Apr. 1, 2024
GEER II	Sep. 30, 2023	Jan. 29, 2024	Mar. 31, 2025
CRRSA EANS	Sep. 30, 2023	Jan. 29, 2029	Mar. 31, 2025
ARP EANS	Sep. 30, 2024	Jan. 28, 2025	Mar. 31, 2026

Henry Fortier Takes on New Advocacy Role

After thirteen fulfilling years as the Secretary for Education/Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Orlando, Henry Fortier is embarking on a new and exciting adventure. Embracing a deep-rooted commitment to Catholic education, Henry now steps into the shoes of Michelle Doyle as a national advocate for Catholic/private schools throughout the USA, ensuring equitable services in federal programs. This transition marks not just a change in position, but a continuation of a lifelong journey dedicated to serving God and the Church.

Henry's journey in the realm of Catholic education began with a strong academic foundation and a calling to ministry. Having studied for the Archdiocese of Hartford at St. Thomas Seminary in Hartford, CT, and later joining the Franciscan Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Henry has always been driven by a passion for serving others within the context of faith.



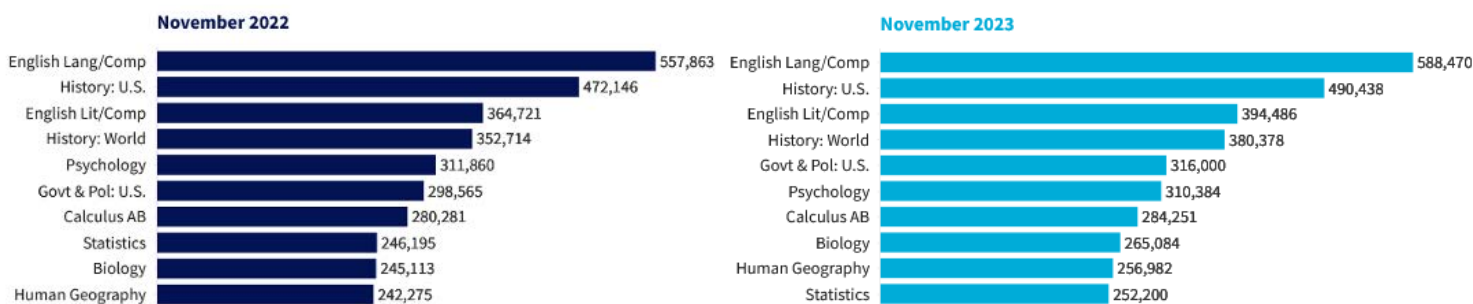
Prior to being superintendent in the Diocese of Orlando, Henry worked as the first full-time Associate Superintendent for Federal Programs for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. This full-time position was a tremendous learning experience, fighting for the rights of Catholic schools and students, gaining millions of dollars in new resources, professional development, and student support services. Henry then moved to New York as the Associate Superintendent of Public Policy and Government Programs for the Archdiocese of New York, which continued to expand his understanding and resilience while working with the largest public school district in the nation. Throughout these experiences, Henry, like so many other diocesan leaders, leaned heavily on Michelle Doyle and her deep knowledge to file numerous successful complaints at the local and state level.

In a recent conversation with friends and colleagues at Catapult Learning, Henry reflected on his new role: "As I embark on this new chapter, I am excited about the opportunity to continue my ministry to Catholic education. I look forward to working with you and your principals to ensure our Catholic school students receive the services and resources allowable under the law. May God continue to bless your important work of forming future saints."

Advanced Placement (AP) Testing 2022-2023

Each November, students and schools face a deadline for registering for exams for the College Board's Advanced Placement fall-semester and yearlong courses.

These exams are taken in May and depending on how well students score, they are eligible for college course credit. Here is a list of the most requested AP exams in 2022 and 2023:



Note: Data does not include exams for AP courses that are offered on a block schedule in the winter/spring semester as the deadline for requesting those is in March.
SOURCE: College Board



With Gratitude For Decades of Service to Catholic Education

This summer marks the retirement of a great friend of Catholic education and one of the most passionate advocates for equitable services in the country. Michelle Doyle, currently CEO of MDEC, is transitioning out of her role and into retirement. Michelle has enjoyed a stellar career in various leadership positions and in a variety of important roles, including assistant superintendent of schools for government programs in the Diocese of Arlington, director of the Office of Non-Public Education (ONPE) at the U.S. Department of Education, and as the education lobbyist for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

As a private consultant at MDEC, she has supported hundreds of school leaders to access equitable services for thousands of students, answered questions, published multiple toolkits, held dozens of webinars, and successfully navigated the many policy issues that emerged during and after the pandemic. While Michelle has been readily available to provide advice and counsel to all private school leaders-Catholic, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and private-her own deep and abiding Catholic faith animated her work and inspired everyone she worked with to become more knowledgeable and vocal in their advocacy for students in private schools. In maximizing the participation of private school students in federal programs, she has no peer.

The gratitude of the entire Catholic school community goes out to Michelle for her 30+ years of service, along with our prayers and best wishes for a long, healthy, and happy well-deserved retirement. Ad multos annos!



Free Webinar-Equitable Service Institute-Focus on Consultation

Michelle Doyle, CEO of MDEC, will lead a webinar focused entirely on consultation as it relates to the equitable services provisions of federal law. As experienced educational leaders know, timely and effective consultation with LEAs is key to successfully navigating the many options and opportunities within equitable services. The 90-minute webinar will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. EDT. To register, click [here](#).

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