

csaanys news

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Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State
406 Fulton Street, Suite 512, Troy, NY 12180
518-273-1205 FAX 518 273-1206 WEBSITE: csaanys.org E-mail: nysadm@aol.com

MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

by Sister Carol Cimino, Executive Director

TECHNOLOGY - TEN YEARS LATER

"In the beginning was the Word...." And little did we know or even understand where communication and information would take us - before the invention of the microchip.

Ten years ago, when it became apparent that our schools had not only to teach THE WORD, but to be WORDPERFECT, we scrambled to play catch-up with public schools and to acquire as much computer hardware and software as possible. As a result, many of our schools ended up with a real melange of equipment, some outdated, some incompatible with other equipment in the same building, and most totally incomprehensible to most of the teachers and even some of the students.

True to our amazing capability to adopt and adapt, we have come a long way since the turn of the last decade. We have had ten years to reflect on our mission and its relationship to the technology now common-place in our schools. A recent study of trends in technology in Catholic schools has resulted in the following findings:

1. The design and implementation of Catholic school technology plans are marked by growing sophistication and clarity.
2. Catholic schools are designing their own teacher training in technology which reflect the rich collaborative climate in our schools.
3. The redesign of Catholic school infrastructure has accelerated, much of this due to the creation of the e-rate, and grants available to wire schools for technology.
4. "Distance education" has opened up whole new possibilities to teacher and student learning, making close collaboration between schools and universities both more affordable and more feasible. (See "Interesting....." below)
5. The growing "seamlessness" of the use of technology has made the use of it more commonplace and practical.
6. The role of media literacy is now more important than ever. With the availability of so much information, schools have taken a new role in helping students to do critical thinking, especially in a Catholic atmosphere.
7. The possibilities of more intergenerational learning are more real, and international, intercultural collaboration are more present in our schools.

Because our acquisition and utilization of new technologies is no longer outer-driven, Catholic schools are more and more using our peculiar inventiveness to give a new interpretation and a new value to all of this innovation. It is, alas, wonderful to watch our schools give it a "Catholic spin", so that we can say with Dr. Seuss, at the beginning of this century, "Oh, the places you'll go!"

SUMMER SCHOOL (Below are the exact words of the regulations of SED, Fall 1999)

Resident students who, in the previous school year, had attended nonpublic schools or any school other than that of the district in which they reside, are nonetheless entitled to attend the summer school of the public school district in which they reside. This is based on the Formal Opinion Of Counsel #149 Volume 4, Page 231 of Education Department Reports.

"For the purpose of this instruction at summer school he (a resident pupil) is no longer an enrollee of the sectarian school."

Every resident student is entitled to attend summer school subject only to meeting academic qualifications, if any, for the particular course. Entitlement may not be restricted based on the source of funds supporting the summer school nor may it be limited by setting an enrollment limit.

INTERESTING....

Niagara Catholic High School is announcing their Niagara Prep Program which is a joint program between Niagara University and Niagara Catholic High School in which students can complete high school and college within seven years.

WELCOME TO CSAANYS

Cheryl A. Canfield - St. Patrick School, Syracuse
Jeanne M. Rougeux - Sacred Heart, Niagara Falls

SELECTED RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS - The Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development, University of Rochester is offering a summer program - "Catholic Formation: Many Paths, One Way".

For more information call 716-275-7833 or 716-275-8270

Tips of CSAANYS Conf.....

✚ Sister Patricia Houlihan, principal of St. Teresa School, Albany, attended the recent Mercy Elementary Education Network Conference in Philadelphia. Sister Patricia was elected the new president of the board.

✚ Dr. Catherine T. Hickey, archdiocesan superintendent of schools, received the Christmas Angel Award at the 54th annual Cardinal's Christmas Luncheon Dec 9th

✚ Members of the School of Character Council from Catholic Central High School in Troy visited the United Nations in New York City recently where they addressed the Hague Peace Conference Committee.

✚ Congratulations to the Felician Sisters for 125 years of service to children in Catholic Schools.

✚ Sister Rosalie Kelley, principal of St. Francis de Sales School in Herkimer, has been selected as an NCEA Outstanding Elementary School Principal. She will be honored at the NCEA Convention in Baltimore this April. Congratulations, also, to the Diocese of Albany.

A CALL FOR VOUCHERS, TAX CREDITS.....

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany and Protestant and Jewish clergy called for tuition tax credits or educational vouchers to foster greater parental choice in education.

They urged the state Legislature to expand the concept of school choice - which began with the newly established charter school program - to enable parents to select private and/or faith-based schools for their children. "The religious leaders issued their call as a way to put the issue of school choice 'on the front burner' when the Legislature begins its new session in January," said Rick Hinshaw, a spokesman for the NYS Catholic Conference, which helped organize the news conference.

PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS SCORE ABOVE AVERAGE

Last month, the National Center for Education Statistics released the results of an assessment of student achievement in civics, a test intended to "measure how well American youth are being prepared to meet their citizenship responsibilities." And it turns out that students in private schools scored well above the national average. This chart shows the percentage of students at or above each of the three achievement levels established for the test: *Basic* - (partial mastery of fundamental knowledge and skills), *Proficient* (solid academic performance), and *Advanced* (superior performance). The NAEP 1998 Civics Report Card is available on the NCEA

Website at: <http://nces.ed.gov>

% of Students At or Above Key Levels in NAEP Civics Test		
	Public	Private
Grade 4		
Basic	57	84
Proficient	21	35
Advanced	1	4
Grade 8		
Basic	68	89
Proficient	20	40
Advanced	1	4
Grade 12		
Basic	63	80
Proficient	25	38
Advanced	4	7

WELCOME TO CSAANYS

- Nancy J. Sedita - St. Mary's, Batavia
- Kathleen Culik - St. Anthony's, Batavia
- Debra Eveland & Linda Willard - NE Catholic Jr High, Rochester
- Sr. Mary Smith - St. Boniface, Rochester
- Richard Burke & Laurel Senger - St. Aloysius, NY
- Sr. Ann Marie McMahon - St. Bartholomew, Yonkers
- Sr. Kathleen Luppens - St. Joseph, Florida, NY
- Linda Feebes - Ss Joachim and Anne, Queens Village
- Sr. Elizabeth Graham & Vincent Marino - Cathedral HS, NY
- Joseph Troy, Kevin McNulty & Mr. John Stanczak -
Albertus Magnus - Bardonia
- Bro Frederick Mueller, Bro Jerome Corrigan, Bro Dennis Cronin,
Bro Joseph Gravite, Mrs Camille Deasy & Ms. Diane Linhart -
La Salle Global Learning Community, Oakdale

SELECTED RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

* Boston College is offering a unique opportunity to educators in Catholic Schools to take one or two graduate courses in educational administration that are specifically designed for those aspiring to or already occupying positions of leadership in Catholic Schools and Catholic School Systems.

* Bearing Witness Institute will focus on the history of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, addressing issues of diversity, prejudice, and bigotry in contemporary society and teaching these topics in a Catholic school setting. - August 2-6 in Washington, DC., call 202-452-8310.

* The NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) invites community-based organizations working in partnership with local schools to submit proposals for the creation or expansion of quality youth development programs after school. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2000. For more info, call Newell Eaton at 518-473-8735 or 4463.

MORE ON OPTION B by Sr. Carol Cimino

You may recall seeing the famous 1948 picture of Harry Truman holding up a newspaper with the headline: "Dewey Wins". Apparently, when the newspaper had gone to press, the latest news was that Thomas E. Dewey had won the 1948 presidential election.

Something like that happened in the December/January newsletter, and I would like both to apologize for the confusion and explain the misinformation.

On October 26, I attended a meeting of the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Advisory Board. At that meeting, the Commissioner seemed to indicate that the so-called "Option B" an alternative method of meeting the new graduation requirements was, for all intents and purposes, off the table.

That's what I reported in the newsletter.

On November 19, the Commissioner met with a group of representatives from the private schools that included some of our Catholic high schools. At that time, the Commissioner stated that he wanted to keep the possibility of "Option B on the table."

CSAANYS' position is that we support the independent schools, most especially our members who wish to maintain their own historically high standards while maintaining their independence.

We also support the NYS Council of Catholic School Superintendents who have opined that most, if not all of their schools will go with Option A by our deadline of 2009. They are working on procurement of aid to update teachers, provide extra help to students and make sure that other programs, such as summer school, are available to our students. This would truly, in the words of the Commissioner, "level the playing field."

As you know, CSAANYS sends out some one thousand newsletters each month to our NYS members and to our associate members from all parts of the USA. Since we compose, print, prepare and bulk mail everything ourselves, often our deadline is several weeks before your newsletter's arriving at your desk. We will continue to do our best to be as current as possible.

