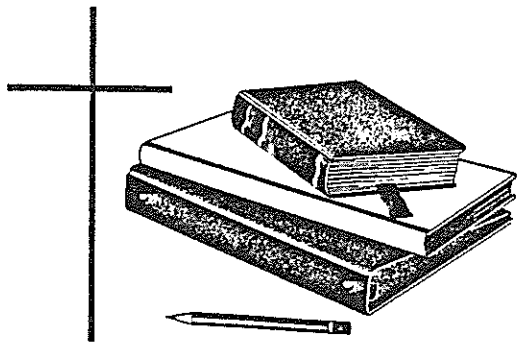


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 29-February 4, 1989



*You Leave Something
Others Can
Look Forward To*

Both CSAANYS directors have been engaged for various activities at member schools during this year's Catholic Schools Week. Since we encourage the use of any opportunity to spotlight our schools during this annual observance, here are some points you might wish to make to various groups:

1. Catholic schools are big business. Last year we spent \$470 million to run the Catholic schools of New York State. As we spend about 1/3 per pupil, compared with public schools (\$2,000. vs. \$6500.), this resulted in a savings of \$1,410,000,000.00 to New York taxpayers. In addition to that, we employed 17,000 persons in our schools.

2. According to NYSED figures, Catholic school students scored better in state administered standardized tests than their public school peers in every area. While the percentage of public school graduates attending college and universities is about 58%, the percentage for Catholic school graduates is 87%.

3. While SED officials are very concerned about a state-wide drop-out rate of almost 6%(43% in NYC), the Catholic school drop-out rate is only 0.3% state-wide, including NYC.

4. Catholic schools, according to sociologists James Coleman and Philip Hoffer (who are not Catholics) are still the most effective, most successful educational institutions in the US today.

5. Catholic schools provide a day-to-day program of religious instruction in all subjects, allowing students the opportunity to make moral judgments about a variety of current problems. The teaching concerning such topics as AIDS, chemical abuse, teen pregnancy, etc. utilizes a course of study that is 2000 years old.

6. Studies show that Catholic schools are most successful with slower students, minorities, the marginalized who, instead of being a burden on society, receive the tools and training to be productive, contributing members of the American populace.

7. Catholic school students have a more positive attitude toward: marriage, the importance of church attendance, the value of education and service to community than their public school peers, according to a 1988 NCEA poll. In addition, a recent Gallup poll shows that young married people who are returning to church attendance after their college "sabbatical" are, by and large, graduates of Catholic schools.

8. Although Catholic school teachers earn about half the salary of public school teachers, they are expected to have the same credentials, and they are fully certified by NYS. In addition, a recent poll by the Catholic University shows that most teachers are in Catholic schools because they feel that they can truly share their faith and values in the context of an institution whose philosophy matches theirs.

9. According to NYSED Commissioner Lionel Meno, in a recent address at the Nonpublic School Administrators' Conference, while public schools have been concentrating on minimal outcomes, nonpublic schools have been concentrating on excellence. This has resulted in a higher success rate in all areas for students who do not attend public schools.

10. According to NCEA studies, although Catholic schools command a major portion of a parish budget, the closing of the parish schools has not resulted in the same amount of money being spent on other parish programs. In addition, parents do not maintain the same level of giving when the school closes, indicating that parents vote positively for a parish school, but not for other parish-based programs.

We hope these 10 points can help you to build a homily or talk to groups during this year's Catholic Schools Week.

CSAANY'S NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE
406 Fulton Street • Suite 512 • Troy, New York 12180

CSAANY'S Takes Stand on Variances

At its meeting on November 23, 1987 the CSAANY'S Board suggested a policy for member schools which have been awaiting some response to their questions regarding variances. As reported in the November, 1987 CSAANY'S News, the Board has been working to establish a procedure whereby privately operated secondary schools with Middle States certification are granted variances in accord with 100.2n(7).

Of immediate concern to a number of our secondary schools is the mandated program of 1/2 credit in participation in government and 1/2 credit in economics for all students graduating in 1989 and thereafter.

Efforts to work through the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Advisory Committee have, to this point, been non-productive. Moreover, Middle States Association accredited member schools have applied for and been denied variances.

Therefore, the CSAANY'S Board has suggested that members:

(1) Document: a) what course offerings exist presently in their curriculum that meet the requirements of the Commissioner's regulations;

b) what co-curricular and extracurricular activities also meet the minimum requirements of the Commissioner's regulations;

(2) Delay implementation of this regulation until the matter is addressed satisfactorily by the Commissioner.

The CSAANY'S Board favors flexibility, local initiative and choice in the pursuit of academic excellence. The CSAANY'S staff shall continue to follow this issue to keep our membership informed.

Win a Trip to NCEA

The P.F. Collier Co. has agreed to provide a CSAANY'S member a free trip to the NCEA Convention in New York City this April.

Therefore, CSAANY'S is reviving the "Pass It On" contest. Members are invited to submit an idea useful to other administrators. It might be a special curricular or co-curricular program that exists in your school, a time-or money-saving idea that has worked for you, or a way to raise school spirit. The sky's the limit.

Please submit a 150-200 word description of the idea on your school stationery by March 1, 1988. CSAANY'S staff, aided by the editorial staff of Today's Catholic Teacher will judge all the entries and the winner will be notified by March 8,

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NEWSBRIEFS

UPDATE ON METROPOLITAN TESTS

Last month we reminded you of the fact that the Psychological Corporation is charging for the answer key and the interpretive manual to go with the 5th edition of the Metropolitan Test. Due to the efforts of CSAANY'S Board member Sister Patricia Houlihan, it is now possible to request those items at no extra cost.

Contact Robert Morris, Manager, Eastern Region, Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 5 Sampson St., Saddle Brook, NJ 07662 - (201) 368-2200.

Mention CSAANY'S to request materials for either Level 1 or 2 at no cost to you. Our thanks to Sister Patricia for her efforts in this regard.

NEW REGENTS SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

The CSAANY'S office had several calls on the new criteria being used to insure that more women and minorities are awarded Regents Scholarships. In addition to the College Entrance Examinations scores, high schools are asked to submit grade point averages (G.P.A.). This has been the cause of much confusion and mixed messages from the State Education Department.

Questions regarding the conversion of letter grades to numerical GPA's, the weighting of honors courses and the divisor to be used in computing GPA's were not answered by SED in a consistent manner, leaving guidance counselors and

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CSAANY'S NEWS

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AIDS Guide Approved

Sr. Mary Anne Brawley, DC

On Friday, October 23, 1987 the Board of Regents, in full session, approved by a 10-2 vote the AIDS Instructional Guide as a component of the Health Syllabus for grades K-12.

This final version is the result of five months of extensive revision in order to make the guide acceptable to the majority of New York State citizens. Unfortunately, the many positive features of the Guide, its scientific approach, its attempt to instill positive self concepts in children from the earliest years, and its stress on sexual abstinence outside marriage, have been ignored in most press releases around the State.

Since CSAANYS was part of the process of review these past months, I think we should commend the State Education Department for the work they've accomplished on a highly volatile subject. In truth, I can agree with Regent James McCabe of Johnson City who dissented on the basis that he could not in conscience vote on a moral issue being taught in the public schools. He was right in contending that public education has abdicated its role in moral education because of the lack of societal absolutes. We, in Catholic education, are better able to teach AIDS as a preventable communicable disease.

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Asbestos Report

On October 15, CSAANYS Associate Director Sr. Carol Cimino attended a State Education Dept. meeting to explain the new guidelines for asbestos abatement and the handling of other potentially hazardous situations.

New Federal guidelines for asbestos abatement were due to be published October 17. New York State's guidelines, however, are more stringent than the Federal rules and must be observed. This means that there are only three courses of action upon identification of the presence of friable asbestos on the inside and/or outside of the school building:

- a) removal of the material;
- b) containment of the material;
- c) encapsulation of the material;

There is grant money available to nonpublic schools for asbestos abatement based on the degree of hazard of the asbestos detected.

Therefore, principals ought to be aware of the following: if you identify a hazardous situation inside or outside of your school building, regarding the presence of friable asbestos, you are required by law to take one of the three courses of action listed above. Claim of degree of hazard

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Newsbriefs

OCC ED PROFICIENCY EXAM

Students who are pursuing a sequence in occupational education and who attend public and nonpublic high schools in NYS will be required as of January, 1989, to pass a proficiency examination in order to qualify for a high school diploma. This includes students whose major sequence business, home ec, industrial arts or any technological course. Students who attend BOCES programs or dual enrollment programs who are majoring in occ. ed. must pass this exam, which starts with the high school graduating class of 1992.

The State Education Dept. has disseminated the Information Booklet on the Introduction to Occupations Proficiency Examination to building administrators. If you have not received this booklet, write to:

Dr. Richard Jones, Chief
Bureau of Occupational Educ.
& Program Develop.
One Commerce Plaza,
Room 1623
Albany, NY 12234
(518) 474-4806

A REMINDER

This year the Psychological Corporation, which produces the Metropolitan Readiness Test is not including the scoring key and manual for interpretation in the cost of the test and shipping.

Principals who wish to have these two items must order them specifically at an additional cost of \$30.00

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CSAANYS NEWS

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ASBESTOS

by Sr. Mary Anne Brawley

In the CSAANYS News for December 1987 there was a report on the State Education Department's October meeting on Asbestos Abatement guidelines. Sister Carol attended this meeting, reported its proceedings, and prepared a summary for distribution when members request it.

As happens occasionally a member of a diocesan school office has questioned our interpretation of these guidelines. We recognize that it is the right and responsibility of the diocese to establish procedures for the institutions it owns and/or operates. Our interpretation of the New York State Guidelines may be viewed by some as conservative.

We fully recognize the financial strain which the implementation of these guidelines entails. We also acknowledge that non-public schools are exempt from the more stringent requirements expected of public schools, especially in the immediacy of abatement measures. There is, however, a moral mandate which compels us to take immediate steps to make our schools environmentally safe for the persons who are under our care and supervision. We also recognize that in applying for grant money to cover the cost of abatement procedures a school will be required to claim a degree of hazard. If the grant is not awarded to the school the declaration of hazard may be detrimental. This is a risk.

Once again we are in a most difficult situation. This particular issue is one that will be with us for a long time. Let us be both prudent and just in meeting this asbestos challenge.

The Lines Are Drawn

You will recall that, in our January newsletter, we announced that the CSAANYS Board had written to Commissioner Thomas Sobol asking that he give a favorable hearing to non-public school requests for variances from the Regents Action Plan.

As requests for variances on several requirements of the Regents Action Plan by Catholic schools have met with no success, CSAANYS in the interim suggested that school administrators delay the implementation of the fourth year social studies mandate.

Since that time, two other organizations have joined CSAANYS in asking that Commissioner Sobol review favorably the variance requests of non-public schools, particularly

The Lines Are Drawn, cont.

for the fourth year social studies. Frederick Aho of the Middle States Association and Joseph McTighe of the NYS Catholic School Superintendents Assn. have recently written to the Commissioner echoing the concerns of CSAANYS.

We hope that this joining of forces will be effective in influencing the Commissioner to subscribe to our cause on this important issue.

newsbriefs

Delay in Regents Business Requirements

The Regents have delayed implementation of a regulation which would have required high school students pursuing a Regents diploma and a five-unit sequence in occupational education, art or music to take three units of study in a foreign language. The original waiver was scheduled to expire in 1988, in time for students entering ninth grade in September, 1988.

Regents students entering high school in 1988 and 1989, who enroll in a five-unit sequence in occupational education, art or music will be permitted to continue to substitute another three-unit sequence for the foreign language requirement. The two-year delay, the Regents will, once again, consider several options for these students.

Governor's Message - Possibilities for Catholic Schools

The State of the State Message by Governor Cuomo on January 6, 1988 contained two proposals that could affect our schools.

First, the governor favors, over a 5-year period, the availability of pre-kindergarten programs for all 4-year-olds in the state. This proposal contains a request for transportation for these children, which would mean that pre-K programs in Catholic Schools would also provide transportation.

Second, the so-called "Liberty Scholarship" program provides a guarantee to targeted seventh grade students, of a college education. Since the scholarships go to the child and not the school, Catholic school students would benefit.

These proposals are now left to the 1988 legislative session to determine. You may wish to contact your legislator to let him/her know of your support as long as it benefits our schools.

Fellowships Available

Empire State Challenger Scholarships and Fellowships for Teachers in a variety of fields in which there is a shortage of persons are available to New York State residents. Undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships are available to persons who must agree to teach in one of the shortage fields. Requests for information and applications may be made to NYS Regents Empire State Challenger Scholarships and Fellowships for Teachers, SED, Bureau of Higher and Professional Educational Testing, Cultural Education Center, Albany, N.Y. 12203.

Materials on Child Care Available

The NYS Council on Children and Families has made available several technical assistance papers addressing the legal issues of starting and operating school-age child care programs. The papers are designed to provide guidance and practical suggestions on how to develop quality programs.

Copies of these may be obtained by contacting:

Joseph J. Cocozza
NYS Council on Children and Families
Mayor Erastus Corning
2nd Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, N.Y. 12223

NCEA/NYC

Don't forget to stop at the CSAANYS table at the Javits Center during the NCEA convention. You might also want some tips on recruiting and keeping students. Associate Director, Sister Carol Cimino will be addressing this topic at 9:15am, Tuesday, April 5. In this same vein, CSAANYS Board President Brother James Liguori, CFC will be talking on using alumni in your school's recruitment program. His presentation will take place at 11:00am on Wednesday, April 6.

Summary of New Examinations Available

A status report, current to December, 1987, is available to CSAANYS members by request. The report summarizes, by definition and purpose, the new examinations in the areas of social studies, science, foreign language and occupational education. Just contact the CSAANYS office.

Secondary School Recognition Program

During the school year 1988-89, the State Education Department will be formally recognizing outstanding secondary schools in the state.

We at CSAANYS feel that all Catholic schools would benefit from participating in this program and encourage school administrators to make remote preparation for participation.

Usually, completed applications must be received by SED by December. Therefore we would encourage secondary schools to obtain materials by contacting:

Carol J. Flansburg
NYS Education Dept.
Bureau of School Regis.
Room 663 EBA
Washington Ave.
Albany, N.Y. 12234

Since the application form is so long and detailed, obtaining materials now should result in better performance in the program.

Recognize Your Secretary

The P.F. Collier Co., in conjunction with Today's Catholic Teacher, provides an opportunity for administrators to recognize outstanding school secretaries. Each month one secretary is selected from nominations received and the winner receives a \$25.00 cash award. The Outstanding Secretary of the Year receives a free trip to the NCEA Convention. Entry forms are available from Today's Catholic Teacher.

