

Fall 2008

Center for Catholic Education Newsletter, Fall 2008

University of Dayton

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CENTER for CATHOLIC EDUCATION

FALL 2008

FAITHFULLY

As fall moves along to winter, we pause again to share our story as a servant leader in our community. Grounded by our Marianist charism of faith we find ourselves rooted, thoughtful, active, growing, joyful, transformational, life-giving, gospel based, building on tradition, engaging our minds and hearts, and embracing Mary as a model of courage and strength through our work with local Catholic schools. We are committed to the leaders of tomorrow's church and we believe our stories offer a



hope for a peaceful future. We gathered with those committed to building professional learning communities for purposes of growing in faith and achieving academic excellence. Our roles and capacity to deliver services to Catholic school students has been enhanced through the generosity of those who believe in our mission and vision. We at the Center for Catholic Education give you our thanks for being a part of our story and for your continued faith in our programs.

UNITING COMMUNITIES

On August 29, 2008, 650 teachers and principals from the Catholic Education Collaborative (CEC) of the Dayton Deanery were brought together at the Dayton Convention Center for an exciting, premiere event. This was the first time that faculty from 22 local Catholic schools gathered together for a common professional development day. "Building a Professional Learning Community for Faith Formation and Academic Excellence" was the theme. The day began with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller. After Mass one could feel the energy in the room as everyone shared breakfast and exchanged pleasant conversation with their fellow Catholic school teachers.

Our first presenter, Keith Crowley, Assistant Principal for Academics at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood, Massachusetts, set the tone of the day. He challenged everyone to work together as professionals and to embrace the mission of promoting optimal student learning and faith formation. Our next presenter was Jeanne Tribuzzi, Director of English Language Arts, ESL and Foreign Language in the West Seneca Central School District in New York. Tribuzzi outlined how teachers can work together to create an effective professional learning community. She further explained that educators can enable

students to soar to higher academic achievement by integrating curriculum mapping, differentiated instruction, and assessment.

During the second half of the day the teachers participated in break-out sessions to discuss these new concepts. For the break-out sessions, the high school faculty and the elementary school faculty were divided into two meeting rooms. Educators were intermixed by schools, grade, and content levels, which gave everyone an opportunity to meet a variety of colleagues and share their ideas. The day ended with closing remarks and a prayer from the CEC President, Anne Battes.

We, at the Center for Catholic Education, are thrilled with the opportunity to partner with the CEC and facilitate this type of collaboration and professional development for Catholic school educators.



**Catholic
Education
Collaborative**

Uniting Communities for Excellence

LALANNE

The Center for Catholic Education proudly welcomes Jacinta Mergler as the new director of the Lalanne program. Jacinta was previously the coordinator of Lalanne and has been with the program for 5 years. Jacinta is committed to lead Lalanne to be a community of faith, dedicated to Catholic education. Her familiarity and passion for the program, outstanding organization skills, planning abilities, and vision for the needs of the program and the teachers in the program demonstrate this. Jacinta is very excited to lead Lalanne into its 10th year. Her goal is to grow the program further. Currently, Lalanne teachers are in four communities throughout the country including Dayton, Cleveland, Indianapolis and just formed in August, San Antonio. Jacinta hopes to fill

the San Antonio community this year as well as bring more diversity to each one of the present communities. She also plans to build alumni connections with former Lalanne teachers. The Lalanne program has made a name for itself and Jacinta is the one to take it into its next 10 years.

In our next issue of the newsletter we will introduce the newly hired Coordinator of Lalanne Activities.



LALANNE BEGINS ITS 10TH YEAR

The school year is off to a great start. Twenty-two Lalanne teachers departed from the University of Dayton on August 2 and headed to their respective communities to begin their first year of teaching and service. Now in our 10th year, we are excited to begin serving three Catholic urban schools in San Antonio, Texas. Our four teachers have felt both welcomed and supported by the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Marianists at St. Mary's University. The Dayton

Lalanne community has a full house this year. Six teachers serve in five schools. In Cleveland, five teachers are serving in four schools. Our community in Indianapolis has seven teachers serving in six schools.

Fall is a busy time for the Lalanne staff. We are visiting every Lalanne community and observing each teacher at his/her school. We have also begun recruiting for next year and are hopeful of filling even more positions in our communities.



URBAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Urban Child Development Resource Center welcomes four new additions to its professional team. They include three mental health counselors, Jennifer Kline, Noelle Willey, and Shari Zahn, and a social worker, Michelle Sherman. The counselors provide prevention programs aimed at reducing violence and preventing abuse. They also provide a wide

range of clinical services to the schools they serve. The social work position is called a Family Advocate, and the primary purpose is to provide support to families to minimize the ravages of poverty.

Jennifer Kline has been in the counseling field for 7 years as a professional clinical counselor. She worked with severely

mentally ill children and adolescents in a partial hospitalization program. As a mental health counselor for UCDRC, Jennifer serves both Immaculate Conception and St. Brigid Schools. She is a graduate of Wright State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling.

Noelle Willey received her MSW in Clinical Social Work from Boston College in 1998. Since moving to Ohio in 2001, she has worked in many different schools as a school mental health therapist. As a mental health counselor for UCDRC, Noelle serves both St. Anthony and Mary Queen of Peace Schools.

Shari Zahn received her Master's Degree at the University of Dayton to become a licensed professional clinical counselor.

She has worked in the field of mental health for many years with a focus on children and their families. Shari has worked in many settings including residential day treatment and school programs. Shari joined the UCDRC team to provide services to Mary Queen of Peace, Homewood campus.

Michelle Sherman completed her Bachelor's Degree at Ohio State University and has been working as a licensed social

worker for 16 years. Michelle's experience working with families makes her a perfect fit as Family Advocate for both campuses of Mary Queen of Peace School.



UCDRC PEACEMAKERS

The University of Dayton's UCDRC Peacemakers is a leadership and service group that focuses on maintaining peace. Currently there are 3 campuses providing representation to the UD UCDRC Peacemakers: Our Lady of the Rosary, and both the Gramont and Homewood campuses of Mary Queen of Peace. The group is made up of 7th and 8th grade students that were chosen on the basis of their strong leadership skills. The students must accept the responsibility of being positive role models to their peers. The Peacemakers are also a service group, offering assistance at many different events and fundraisers.

On October 21, 2008, a small number of Peacemakers attended

the Greater Dayton Conference on Youth. The conference focused on youth service, youth leadership, and the 40 Developmental Assets; sessions on these topics were attended by the Peacemakers. The concepts learned were then brought back to all Peacemakers and incorporated into skill development. Rhonda Merce, UCDRC Site Coordinator, is responsible for organizing the joint effort to bring student leadership in the Catholic elementary schools together under the Peacemaker program. She acknowledged the plans to expand the program next year to other Catholic elementary schools to which UCDRC provides services. The three current campuses will

come together again other times this school year to further enrich leadership skills. On December 9, 2008, the Peacemakers from the three campuses will meet at the University of Dayton to work on team building while focusing on identifying the 40 Development Assets for each Peacemaker to strengthen his/her leadership abilities.

UCDRC welcomes the energy that the new staff brings to the program, the creation of the Family Advocate position this school year, and the growth of the Peacemakers. It is an exciting year for UCDRC!





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STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR ON BOARD

In June of 2008, the Center for Catholic Education advertised for a Student Support Coordinator for Our Lady of the Rosary School. The Student Support Coordinator position is modeled after a successful program created in Boston, through collaboration between Boston College and the Boston Public Schools. The program, "Boston Connects" focuses on helping and supporting every student in the building. The position in Dayton was initiated through a grant from a very generous local foundation. Debra Sanderman, our former Lalanne Director, has been appointed to this new and innovative role.

Debra's primary focus at Our Lady of the Rosary will be supporting each student by working to remove the non-academic barriers to learning that students face. She will work with each teacher to review each student in his/her class, focusing on areas of strength, as well as areas where improvement is necessary. A plan is initiated for the student and the student's teachers. Staff and community partners work together to help each student achieve his/her goals. We are very excited to still have Debra as part of the Center for Catholic Education family and cannot wait to see what this new role brings in the future.