



DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Department of Catholic Schools

November 14, 2019

Mrs. Kathy Mears
Chief Program Officer
NCEA
North Glebe Road Suite 525
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mrs. Mears:

The Trenton Diocesan Parent Teachers Association is an organization that lives the motto, Lead. Learn. Proclaim.

Now in its 94th year of service to Catholic schools, it excels in supporting 29 elementary and 6 high school communities and 12,267 students.

Leadership

Parents in Catholic schools are committed to provide a faith-filled, Catholic education for their children. The leadership of the PTA provides guidance and direction to the PTA membership. Semi-annual president meetings conducted by the Diocesan PTA Executive Board create the perfect venue for incoming school officers to understand the PTA Constitution and Bylaws, the internal controls necessary for financial oversight, the best practices that yield success, and the gift of making new acquaintances, acquaintances that in many cases last a lifetime. Bi-annual PTA Retreat Days open with a prayer service and provide a place for all to encounter God. The morning is filled with breakout sessions for learning and celebrating the gift of a community of leaders. Leadership is passed on and continues to unfold in changing times.

Learning

Realizing the struggle of a number of students with specific learning needs, the PTA has supported the Orton-Gillingham Program, a summer, week long, 8 hours per day initiative to provide teachers with the tools to meet the needs of all students. The benefit is that teachers attain the skills necessary for students, particularly those with dyslexia, to learn differently. Teachers have a toolbox of strategies to reach and teach the students in their care. As life-long learners, the teachers perfect their craft and develop strategies to help all students to achieve. This summer, thirty-seven teachers took part in training and twenty-five teachers are participating in the practicum leading to certification as dyslexia instructors. It is recognized that one in five, bright, intelligent individuals experience difficulty in learning to read and write. With the right tools, with caring, informed, and patient teachers, students are unlocking the meaning of the once confusing printed word.



Proclaim –

The generosity of the local PTA units proclaims their dedication to Catholic schools in supporting the operating budget of our Catholic schools with annual contributions exceeding \$2.4 million. Beyond supporting the operating budget, the PTA contributes \$5,000+ annually for diocesan marketing initiatives to tell the story of our Catholic schools. Pastors, principals, marketing chairs and board members recently took part in a November presentation with national speaker, Eric Sheninger, to learn strategies to market their school. Each school received the book, *BrandED* to learn how to tell their story. With funding from the PTA, a video was created for television to market Catholic schools through the course of the year.

Life brings challenges and opportunities. The generosity and positive spirit of the Diocesan PTA provides support for Catholic schools as they immerse students in the faith and foster continued learning for tomorrow's leaders.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the Trenton Diocesan PTA for the Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award!

Sincerely,

JoAnn Tier
Superintendent of Catholic Schools