



ARCHANGEL GABRIEL  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Archangel Gabriel School Families,

Welcome back to AGS for the 2020-2021 school year. Whether your children are among our 247 students attending brick and mortar or our 53 students joining us virtually, we are so excited to see their smiling faces every day.

In preparation for this year, Mrs. Miltzer and I participated in weekly summer virtual meetings with the Diocese of Pittsburgh Director of Catholic Schools, Michelle Peduto, Regional Administrator of the South Region of Catholic Elementary Schools, Mrs. Sharon Brown, and the principals in the South Region. During these sessions, we refined our safety plans and remote learning guidelines to promote consistency across the Diocese. The opportunity to collaborate with our peers was very helpful as we were able to problem-solve with each other and share strategies and practices that promote strong academic rigor in a safe, nurturing environment. We were able to facilitate training for our teachers to reflect our guidelines and best practices and are extremely proud of each of them as they worked diligently over the summer to prepare for instruction in the time of COVID-19.

When I first joined the AGS team as president in the spring of 2019, my primary role was to provide support with the merger of Holy Trinity School and St. Malachy School as we completed transition plans for the successful establishment of our new school. Early in the school year of 2019, I added co-principal responsibilities to assist in daily operations, teacher supervision, professional development, and curriculum development. Mrs. Miltzer and I worked together as the leadership team establishing routines, procedures, and guidelines for AGS's first year of operation. Together, with the onset of COVID-19 in March of 2020, we are well-positioned with teachers to meet the instructional needs of our students through remote learning.

Now that AGS has been in operation for a full year and our transition has been successful, Mrs. Miltzer and I strategized with Regional Administrator, Mrs. Brown to ensure our leadership team is aligned to successfully move our school to the next level. With a background as a retired West Allegheny Assistant Superintendent and in my current role as University of Pittsburgh Student Teacher Supervisor, my area of expertise is in growing teachers in their practice and facilitating the development of rigorous instructional programs. In moving forward, my focus here at AGS will be to oversee and update curriculum and professional development. I am excited and honored to continue to work closely with and support our exemplary teachers. Our principal, Mrs. Miltzer will manage all daily operations of AGS related to items such as finance, schedules, student issues, technology management, in addition to school procedures and routines.

When I meet with grade-level teachers every month, we will focus on a curricular review of each content area by examining alignment with Standards, alignment within and between grade levels, assessment, textbooks, and instructional resources, and then determine the next steps to refine our instructional programs. We will also address topics such as differentiation of instruction to meet the unique needs of each student, classroom management, STEAM, and effective remote learning strategies. These foci will also be addressed in professional development sessions and teacher supervisory discussions and reflections.



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The National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools state that *an excellent Catholic school has clearly articulated, rigorous curriculum aligned with relevant standards, 21st-century skills, and Gospel values, implemented through effective instruction*. Our mission is to integrate our Catholic faith into the foundation of all our initiatives separating us from other schools and leading us to excellence.

I am looking forward to a great year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you have related to our instructional programs. You may reach me by email at [cassetta@archangelgabrielpgh.org](mailto:cassetta@archangelgabrielpgh.org) or 724-350-7139.

God bless you and your families,

Christine Assetta, Ed.D.

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