

# Catholic School Update

## January 12, 2018

**“We live our lives for an audience of one:  
God. If you are doing what you believe  
God is calling you to do deep in your  
soul, walk on.”**



Walk on with courage and trust!  
All you holy men and women, pray for us!



The Diocese of Green Bay offices will be

**Closed on  
Monday, January 15, 2018**

for the observed birthday of:

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### Catholic Schools Week 2018

[Bishop Ricken's letter](#) for Catholic Schools Week.



Alpha



We now have the Alpha training materials, PowerPoint used by Joe Tremby, and the videos on our Google website <http://site.ed-gbd.org> under Alpha.

In the training materials you will find the topics and the discussion questions for each session. At our December 4 training we tried to tailor the training to educators. Thus you will see a lot of information in the first part of the training materials that may not apply as well to schools (such as 120 minute sessions). You do need to make the sessions, settings, and timeframes appropriate for your local school setting. For the videos, there are several options; we encourage the first set which has three presenters. You will note there is one set of videos for youth. That may be something to consider for the future with middle/high school students. Keep in mind that the purpose of Alpha is deepening our personal relationship with Jesus. It is not a practical training for classroom strategies, though some applications can surely be made. We've begun to have some fruitful discussions at DASA meetings as to how to incorporate Alpha into plans for 2018-19. Any further questions, please contact [Sister Kay](#).

## Meemic - New Grant Opportunitites

Exclusive for our Foundation Club Members — TWO exciting grant opportunities!

### **Meemic Masterpieces Art Contest and Grant Opportunity**

Help us celebrate a message of togetherness by having your students enter the third edition of our Meemic Masterpieces Art Contest and Grant Opportunity!

Any Foundation Club Member can sponsor a student in grades K-12 to submit an original artwork featuring one of these three themes:

- Kindness
- Celebrating Diversity
- Anti-Bullying

Up to 50 artworks will be selected! The winning student artist will receive a Chromebook, and the sponsoring Foundation Club Member will receive a \$300 art supplies grant for their school.

Artwork and required documents must be submitted by Friday, March 30, 2018. For the complete rules and art guidelines, please visit:

[SchoolhouseAgency.com/Masterpieces](http://SchoolhouseAgency.com/Masterpieces)



**The Meemic Foundation**

### **First Quarter Traditional Grant**

Foundation Club Members who are currently employed by an educational institution are invited to also apply for our traditional grant for funding up to \$500 to support their classroom, department, campus or district needs, such as new technology, STEAM initiatives, field trips, and more!

Our easy-to-complete First Quarter Traditional Grant applications must be submitted

by Saturday, March 31, 2018. For more details, and to see a sample application, go to:

[SchoolhouseAgency.com/Traditional](http://SchoolhouseAgency.com/Traditional)

As always, thanks again for all you do for education!

Pamela Harlin

Director, The Meemic Foundation



### **Middle School Science and Religion**

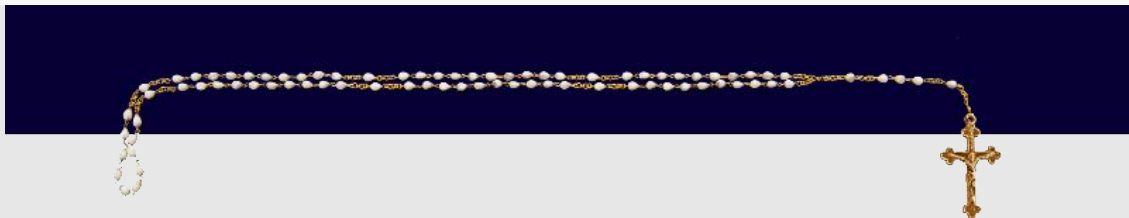
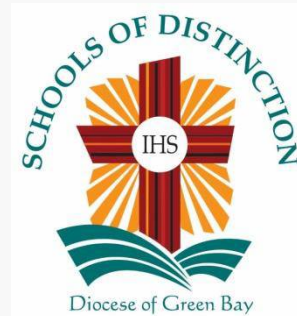
If you are looking for content materials for Middle School science or religion check out free, new materials from the Fr. Robert Spitzer, The Magis Center.

Magis Center is announcing the release of it's latest, and greatest, Catholic education tool, Credible Catholic. It is available for use by individuals, schools, and parishes. This priceless project is free online at [crediblecatholic.com](http://crediblecatholic.com). The first program is available NOW -

*The 7 Essential Modules*, chosen from the 20 modules that will be available by mid-2018. These are the 7 modules that Father Spitzer deems critical for all Catholics to be aware.

### **School of Distinction Award**

The logo, criteria, timeline, and details of the Schools of Distinction Award are found [here](#).



### **Kremer Foundation**

Since 1985, The George and Mary Kremer Foundation has been committed to providing Catholic elementary schools in the continental United States with

tuition assistance grants for children from financially challenged families. If you are not currently a participating school, please consider applying for a grant at <http://kremerfoundation.org/application-form.html>.

The Kennedy year and page required on the application can be obtained by contacting Pat at 920-272-8188. Deadline for application is **January 31, 2018**.

## Listening Center Equipment

We have come across some headphones and adaptors in which 4 people could be listening to the same thing at the same time. The headphones have the large jacks. Perhaps a teacher has stories on DVD that a group of students listen to at the same time. Please let us know if this would be of use to you. First come first serve.



## Best Practice

Monthly we would like to share a best practice from one of our schools that can be replicated in other schools. This month Drew Mulloy, principal at St. John the Baptist, Howard, shares his development of discipleship within the school and families. Check it out [here](#).

Thanks, Drew, for sharing your best practice. Please send a practice from your school community to [Sister Kay](#) to be shared with our diocesan schools.

## DPI Special Need Scholarship

St. Peter Lutheran School at [N2740 French Road](#) in Appleton, Wisconsin is hosting a WCRIS seminar led by WCRIS staff member Laura Sumner Coon on Tuesday, January 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Laura will educate school leaders on the Special Needs Scholarship Program. The Special Needs Scholarship Program allows a student with a disability who meets certain eligibility requirements to receive a state funded scholarship to attend a participating private school. The Special Needs Scholarship Program is governed by Wisconsin Statute 115.7915 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter PI 49.

Please RSVP to Phil Punzel, principal at St. Peter Lutheran School at [ppunzel@stpetercares.com](mailto:ppunzel@stpetercares.com) by January 15 if you are able to attend.



### Title Programs Consultation Meeting

CESA 6, 7 and 8 are once again offering a meeting for private and public school consultation for Title programs. The meeting will be February 21, 10:00-3:00 at Liberty Hall 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly - [Flier](#)

### Long-career Retiring Teachers

If you have a teacher(s) retiring after 40 or more years of teaching, please forward the names and years of service to Sister Kay by April 30. We will provide a letter of recognition from Bishop Ricken for you to present to your teacher(s). DASA Executive plans to work on a recognition process to recognize decades of service for our Catholic teachers for 2019 Catholic Schools Week.



### VIRTUS Training Bulletins

Mid-year is a good time to remind all teachers and administrators to be sure to be up-to-date on the VIRTUS training bulletins. Sometimes it is helpful to take some faculty meeting time to let everyone check and “catch up” on the reading. Also, January is the month to make sure all grades teach the second Safe Environment lesson for the year and document the completion of the lesson.

### Adult Crossing Guard Week

January 22-26 is Wisconsin’s Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week. This is a great time to show some appreciation for those who keep our students safe on the dangerous corners.



### Guest Speaker

Peggy Nicely, wife of Headmaster Frank Nicely at St. John Paul II Classical School, speaks on the topic of Goodness, Truth & Beauty, with an emphasis on incorporating beauty in the formation and education of children and youth. If interested contact Peggy at [nicely624@hotmail.com](mailto:nicely624@hotmail.com).

## Tax Laws

Our national affiliate, the Council For American Private Education (CAPE) reports that the legislation signed by President Trump in late December includes:

Expansion of 529 Accounts – Starting in 2018, these accounts can be used for up to \$10,000 in tuition expenses annually in elementary and secondary schools.

**Section 117(d)** – Tax-free tuition reductions for the children of teachers and other employees in our schools remain intact.

**Section 127(a)** – Tax-free benefits of up to \$5,250 annually for educational assistance to employees are retained.

**Teacher Tax Deduction** – Educators can still take the \$250 above-the-line deduction for expenses for classroom materials or professional development.

Schools across Wisconsin and our counterpart CAPE groups across the country participated in this effort, generating tens of thousands of contacts with Congress. It was clearly successful and shows we are stronger together. Thank you for your membership in WCRIS and for helping us accomplish this victory on behalf of our schools, students and families!



## Forward Exam



CESA 6 is handling private school access to the FORWARD exam under contract with the DPI. This special reduced pricing and the support it includes is a direct result of the WCRIS Board meeting with Dr. Evers last February. That dialogue opened the door for collaboration over many months and led to this creative solution. Whether or not your schools use the FORWARD Exam, this lower price will provide significant savings for many of our schools and underscores the value of WCRIS' advocacy on their behalf. See brochure [here](#). We want you to know this is available to our schools. However, we will continue to use NWEA MAP as the standard assessment for all our school.



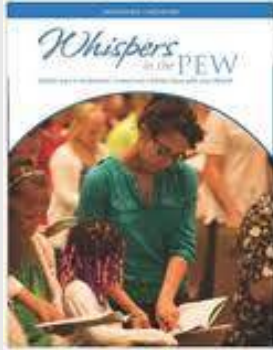
## Wisconsin Teacher Licenses

Truly, we have no updates yet. WCRIS and DPI continue to draft the legislative proposals (trailer bill) that will update the new life- license law to address non-public school teacher concerns and clarify implementation.

Initial educators (regardless of year they are in) will be issued a provisional license because that license needs to be in the database before a lifetime license can be applied for and granted. There will be a process in place to verify semesters of employment but it is not yet determined.

Educators with a license that expires June 30, 2018 do not seek renewal. Current life license holders should not expect their licenses to be deactivated. Once the rules are defined, all educators will learn what to do. The expected timeline for rule clarification is sometime in March. The process for employment verification and criminal background checks is not defined yet.

Hold tight and watch for further information.



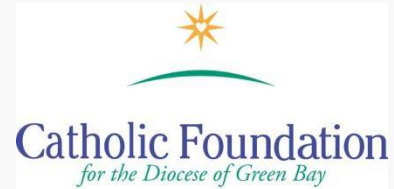
### Awesome Resource for Families and Young Children at Mass

Please share this resource with your families. Printed copies can be purchased through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Download or e-reader versions are free.

<https://www.archmil.org/Synod2014/Whispers-in-the-Pew.htm>

### Lent Resources

Cindy St. Aubin, diocesan World Mission Director, has resources for Lenten planning. Check [here](#) for information.



## JOY of the GOSPEL

Happy New Year! Your free [Joy of the Gospel eLessons](#) for January are ready to access and share.

### March is ACRE Month

The NCEA IFG: ACRE edition is based on the Catholic Church's expectations for an organic, systematic, and comprehensive education in Christian discipleship.

Currently, it is the only tool that provides national scores for comparison and processes for tracking religious education program data over time, and Bishop Ricken has directed that all Catholic schools and parish Religious Education programs in the Diocese will use the ACRE Assessment sometime during the month of March.



Here are some helpful links:

- [NCEA ACRE general information/updates](#)
- [User Resources \(sample letters to parents; admin manual; proctor guides/practice items; more\)](#)
- [Resources for setting up online format of ACRE](#)

- [Materials Ordering Process](#)
- [Need-to-Know Information about ACRE sheet](#) (Diocesan)

The toll free phone number for NCEA consultation services regarding ACRE is: 1-800-711-6232.

Please note that materials are available in Spanish, too.



### DMLA-Diocesan Library Media Association

Diocesan Library Media Association will be meeting on February 15, 2018. The topic of the meeting is maker-mindset and makerspaces. All are welcome. Dennis Rockhill, the founder of Proto, will be the speaker. Dennis has recently joined with the Einstein Project in order to have a further reach with maker-mindset. The meeting location will be announced. Dennis will be in the process of moving from the Brown County Central Library to the UWGB campus. Stay tuned for location. 2018-2019.

### Save-the-Date (June 2018)

Sophia Institute for Teachers/Catechists is hosting two days in Green Bay (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on the west side) on June 13-14.



The topics are Encounter the Person of Jesus and Prayer: A Conversation with God (including guided prayer and adoration experiences). Mass is included on both days.

No cost, and meals are included. You may attend one day or both days. Attendance at both days is required to receive Ongoing Formation credit (for catechetical certification purposes).

[Online Registration for June 13th \(Encounter Jesus\)](#)

[Online Registration for June 14th \(Prayer\)](#)



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