

Newsletter 3: October 2026

# Assumption Catholic School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

WSeptember routines are set, our students know what is expected of them, and somehow we are already in October! We are ready to continue to work hard, learn more, and continue building on the wonderful start we have had to the school year.

As we begin a new month, I want to share a few academic updates, some important reminders, and—as always—a little bit of what is happening around ACS.

**PowerSchool** Is Up and Running! PowerSchool is officially up and running, and grades are being updated. Please take some time this weekend to log into your parent account and review your child's grades. The mid-point to marking period 1 is next Friday, October 9th. One of the most important parts of a successful school year is communication between home and school. PowerSchool gives parents an opportunity to stay informed before a small concern becomes a bigger one. If you see something you have a question about, please reach out to your child's teacher.

**Kindergarten-Grade 2: Book Sacks** begin! Our youngest readers are ready for an exciting next step! Kindergarten through Grade 2 will begin bringing home their book sacks. Books will go home on Fridays. Students will practice reading their books at home throughout the week and will be assessed the following Friday. As students demonstrate growth and mastery, they will move into new books that match their developing reading level. So, how do we know which reading level is right for each child? Mrs. Shumny DRA's every student in Kindergarten and First and Second grade - we pick-up where we left off in June (new students in grades 1 & 2 are assessed by Mrs.Florez).

The DRA, or Developmental Reading Assessment, is an individual reading assessment that helps us determine a student's instructional reading level. It looks at more than whether a child can simply read the words on a page. We look at accuracy, fluency, comprehension, and a student's ability to understand and discuss what he or she has read.

Reading growth takes practice! As students strengthen their decoding skills, build fluency, expand vocabulary, and improve comprehension, we reassess and move them forward. Please read with your child and make those book sacks part of your weekly routine. A few minutes of consistent reading at home makes a tremendous difference.

**Grades 3-5**: Working Hard and Building Independence: Our students in Grades 3-5 are working hard! These are such important years because students begin transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn. Expectations increase, assignments require more independence, and students begin taking greater responsibility for their work. Teachers are continuing to challenge students while providing the support they need. Please continue checking folders, PowerSchool,

assignments, and communications from teachers. We want our students to develop good habits now that will prepare them for middle school and beyond.

**<u>Middle School</u>: Academically Strong…With a Few October Reminders!**

Grades 6–8 will always have a special place in my heart. I spent 24 years teaching this age group, so I know middle schoolers very well (I think lol). There is something wonderful about this age—even if some have discovered deodorant and others are still waiting for that discovery! 😄

Academically, I am very proud of them. Our quizzes and exit tickets are strong, IXL numbers are climbing with mastery, students are working hard, and we are already seeing wonderful progress in a very short amount of time. The teachers are pushing them, supporting them, and holding them accountable. Academically, I have no major concerns with this group.

**However**…we need to have a moment of silence for another Chromebook lost in the line of duty.

This time, the culprit was a broken squishy and the slime that came with it. silence…..

Therefore, I have reluctantly accepted my role as the Mean Principal and am officially declaring middle-school classrooms a squishy-free zone. Squishies may continue to hang from backpacks so everyone can remain fashionable and participate in the latest trends, but they may not be used during class. If a student requires a sensory tool such as a squishy as part of a documented need, please provide the school with amdoctor's note.

While we are setting a few boundaries, let's talk about those delicious Dunkin' drinks that have been making their way through our doors! As tempting as they may be, outside specialty drinks are not permitted during the school day according to our handbook. Yes, they can have their treat at snacktime. And speaking of snacks …. We allow middle-school students a quick working snack. This should be something simple that can be eaten in approximately 10 minutes while students continue working—not a second breakfast! The purpose is simply to give students something to hold them over until lunchtime without interrupting instruction. We know the extra ten minutes in bed are more important than eating :)

Our middle schoolers are doing extremely well. These little reminders are simply part of helping them learn that increased independence also comes with increased responsibility.

**<u>A Very Important Day for ACS & the Diocese of Metuchen is Tuesday, October 6th:</u>** As part of the Cognia accreditation engagement review for the Diocese of Metuchen, Assumption Catholic School has been selected to participate in the interview process. Several of our teachers will be interviewed by the accreditation review team and will have the opportunity to speak about what we do every day at ACS—how we live our Catholic mission, challenge our students academically, use data to guide instruction, support students at different levels, and work together as a faculty to continually improve our school. I have also been selected as one of the principals who will be interviewed by the accreditation review team.

We have spent a tremendous amount of time reflecting on our programs and practices and putting our work into writing. Now we have the opportunity to speak about how those words come to life in our school each day. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Fennessy, Mrs. Derevenska, Ms. Roque and Ms. Perez for their contributions to our standards, surveys and your recommendations and honest review of our school. To Mrs. Florez, Mrs. Bielak and Ms. C. Shumny – my gratitude is endless. No

words can express the countless hours you have spent gathering evidence, compiling the data and uploading all our files to support our school. WE ARE ACS STRONG! Thank you!

Lastly, **Christmas Bazaar Information Is Going Home Today**! Please check your child's backpack because Christmas Bazaar paperwork is going home today! Our Christmas Bazaar is not only one of our school's most beloved traditions—it is also our largest and most important fundraiser of the year.

The success of the Bazaar directly supports our school and helps us continue to keep tuition as reasonable and affordable as possible for our families. Fundraising plays an important role in helping offset increasing operating costs so that we can continue providing our students with the programs, resources, technology, activities, and Catholic education they deserve.

We truly need everyone's participation. Please carefully review the information going home today, mark the important dates on your calendar, and consider how your family can help make this year's Christmas Bazaar another success.

Thank you for continuing to partner with our teachers. Check PowerSchool, read our communications, ask your children what they are learning, read and pray together at home, and reach out when you have questions. When school and home work together, our students benefit.

And as we prepare for our Cognia interviews next week, I ask you to keep our entire ACS community in your prayers. May we always remain focused on why we are here: to challenge our children academically, nurture them spiritually, help them grow into responsible young people, and—most importantly—teach them to know, to love, and to serve God.

Here's to a productive and faith-filled October!

God bless,

Mrs. Shumny

## Going Home Today:

*FROM FSA: CHRISTMAS BAZAAR INFORMATION GOING HOME! We assign parents on a first received basis

*Clothing Drive still going on, Gertrude Hawk orders due November 1st

*Next restaurant is Texas Roadhouse on October 8th

*All your support helps us keep our tuition low without cutting our programs :)*

# Congratulations to the ACS September Students of the Month

What a wonderful way to begin the 2026–2027 school year! Today, we proudly recognized our September Students of the Month for their outstanding character, academic effort, and Christlike behavior.

Congratulations to:

🎉 PK - Amelia

🎉 Kindergarten - Layla

🎉 Grade 1 - Mikayla

🎉 Grade 2 - Julian

🎉 Grade 3 - Mykola

🎉 Grade 4 - Leah and Dean

🎉 Grade 5 - Michael

🎉 Grade 6 - Maya and Daniel

🎉 Grade 7 - Valentina

🎉 Grade 8 - Angelee and Max

We are so proud of each of you for setting such a wonderful example for our ACS community. Continue to know, to love, and to serve God!

