Assumption Catholic School

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption

380 Meredith Streets
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone - 732-826-8721
Fax - 732-826-5013

Dear Students of Assumption Catholic School,

My heart is filled with joy, excitement, and gratitude as I reminisce about our 2022-2023 school year. At the start of this school year, my sixth year as principal, I had so many projects and ideas in mind and could not wait for the school year to start. Yet, as I greeted each of you on the first day of school, I quickly realized that God had a different plan and a much faster paced one!

Each year we're happy to have new students join the ACS student family. However, this year was different. Approximately twelve (and the number fluctuated throughout the year) children and their families came to our parish and school to escape the on-going war in Ukraine. We were grateful that we could provide a safe environment where they could make new friends and learn. While each of them had their own story it soon became obvious that kids are kids around the world. We wish them well as they continue their journey whether in high school, or Ukraine, or right here in ACS.

We welcomed new teachers to our school family: Ms. Roque in third grade, Mrs. Bielak in kindergarten, and Mrs. Szeliga for 7th and 8th grade math. A pre-algebra program in 7th and a customized algebra curriculum in 8th was Mrs. Szeliga's area of expertise.

Our lower level multi-purpose room was renovated and designed for various projects and subjects. Rather than one library area the books were distributed to students and put into each classroom to promote greater use of them and more reading. A new access point was installed for better internet usage and there are new, cool, orange chairs! Moving up to our top floor a source of great excitement was our new water fountain featuring cold water and the capability to refill water bottles.

Continuing the academic improvements, I brought in two Rider University students who presented a weekly STEM workshop for the 6th - 8th graders. Behind the scenes, ACS teachers attended over thirty hours of professional development which included meeting with an occupational therapist who worked with teachers on differentiated instruction.

A huge commitment to our academic offering was the purchase of a new English Language Arts program. The teachers also received professional development for the new ELA books. I feel the MAP scores have provided proof that ACS students are well on the way to success.

In addition to the regular academics, we sought to provide education beyond the books. To that end I started an Empowering Young Women series. Invited to speak to the middle school girls were several professionals covering careers like dental hygienist, manager, flight attendant, clinical associate in the Stanford teacher education program, police officer, detective, teacher, physical therapist, and lawyer.

From day one, ACS has been blessed with a dedicated and hardworking parent organization. Our current Family and School Association, the FSA, is no exception. Just take a look at the highlights from this year. Close to $40,000 was raised to support the school. The main fundraisers that netted this amount were online raffles, a Christmas bazaar, and two Gertrude Hawke candy sales. Citizens Bank donated $5000 which helped purchase prizes for the bazaar raffles. Beyond the fundraisers, the FSA

sponsored pancake breakfasts for the students, manned the Scholastic book fair, held a clothing drive, cooked Thanksgiving dinner for the whole school and guest Perth Amboy seniors, provided the First Holy Communion, sponsored a barbeque to benefit two families, treated the graduates to a trip, celebrated our graduates with a breakfast, sponsored a graduation award, and gave the school an end of the year picnic. And those are just the big projects!

Our student council, FSA, and teachers were involved with several Community Outreach projects. They helped raise awareness of the world beyond ACS and included: the Ukrainian orphanage coat drive, School supply Donation Drive, Perth Amboy Clean Up Day, Thanksgiving Food Drive, and Easter food drive. Many classes did their own little projects of making cards for those who needed a reminder that others are thinking of them.

Catholic Schools Week Activities consisted of visits from Perth Amboy Police and Fire Departments, Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest and who can forget the eighth grader's Hungry Hungry Hippo Game! Our art teacher gathered all the students' work and displayed it in an Art Gallery style. Many parents came in and were impressed with the talent that abounds in ACS.

Other activities whose memories bring a smile to my heart were the Special Person's Lunch, an environmental based Grand Falloons presentation, a dental hygiene presentation, student council sponsored dances, Tacos with Dad, Mother's Day Tea, and more.

On June 3, 2023, 24 eighth graders received diplomas from Father Ivan and Mrs. Shumny at a liturgy. We said farewell and reminded them that ACS will always be their home and they will always be welcome.

On June 12, 2023, 22 kindergarteners presented their accomplishments and received their "diplomas" from Father Ivan and Mrs. Shumny. Our pre-kindergarteners also "stepped up" to the next grade level.

It was a busy school year and also so productive! Throughout it all, we recognize our dedicated Pastor, Father Ivan. None of this would have been possible without him. Through his love and his allegiance to our school, he has allowed me to introduce new projects, new innovative technology and has consistently supported this new chapter of growth for us! He has seen all the changes that ACS has gone through and with courage and commitment continues to work towards our mission.

Thanks also goes to Sister Veronica, Sister Svitanku, and Sister Tritisi who teach Ukrainian, Spanish, moderate Sodality, and help out in the office. Your presence is appreciated and you are shining examples of an unwavering commitment to consecrated life.

This beautiful school year would not have been possible without the dedicated teachers who work so hard and give so much of themselves. What they do goes above and beyond the classroom. They are the driving force for our success and for our school's mission.

As we begin our summer vacation, we pray that God bless and keep you all safe. We will see you in September. Have a terrific summer and don't forget to read!

God Bless, Mrs. Shumny

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2023-2024 Teacher Grade Assignment

Pre-Kindergarten: Mrs. Florez

Kindergarten: Mrs. Bielak

First Grade: Mrs. Kukuruza

Second Grade: Mrs. Laudadio

Third Grade: Mrs. Lombardi

Fourth Grade: Ms. Suarez

Fifth Grade: Mrs. Laffey

Sixth Grade: Ms. Roque

Seventh Grade: Ms. Shumny

Eighth Grade: Mrs. Pickering

Have a terrific, safe and blessed summer!

Your Principal, Mrs. Shumny