

Crusader News



OCTOBER NEWS

Art and Music happenings ... Best practices for our math teachers ... Faculty Spotlight New middle school STREAM lab ... Enriching students' faith... PTO Cash Bash ... Upcoming events ... and more!



The Sound of Music!

Music fills the halls of DMCA, from the energetic voices of our preschoolers all the way to our band and orchestra members in 7th and 8th grade. Here's a glimpse of our students sharing their passion for music, as they lift their voices in song during music class and weekly Mass, and learn how to master an array of instruments available in our band and orchestra classes.

From left: 8th graders Lillian Cypher, Jaydah Favor and Trinity Cannizzaro practice during Orchestra class.

DMCA music classes help students gain an appreciation for a wide range of musical genres. With guidance from **Ms. Yanzetich-Homway**, who leads the K-6 music program on our East and West campuses, DMCA West 3rd graders **Eric Gress** and **Sean Sakmar** get a feel for rhythm while classmates **Anessa Ropp**, **Jonathan Gleason** and **Madeline Keyes** harmonize in class.

Meanwhile, **Mr. Tim Baacke**, who serves as the band instructor for students in grades 4-8, works with 8th graders **Jonah Bremer**, **McKenna Dill**, **Mikayla Evans** and **Rachel Cameron** after instructing DMCA West 4th grader **Connor Hewitt** and 6th graders **Nate Mikula** and **Kevin Lynch** during Band class.

Students enrolled in Band class can explore their interest in a range of instruments, including piano, trumpet, saxophone, trombone, baritone, french horn, flute, clarinet, bass guitar and drums. They often combine their skills with DMCA Orchestra students. Under the direction of **Ms. Sarah Smitherman**, Orchestra students in grades 4-8 learn the fundamentals of string instruments, including the violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Students in grades 3-8 can also join the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Youth Chorale. In addition to seasonal performances, the Chorale and other DMCA chorus members lead their classmates in song at weekly Masses. They also sing once a month on the weekly telecast of the Mass from St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Please contact Ms. Y to learn more about the Youth Chorale.

*Coming up: **County Chorus** - In-school auditions for 6th grade students on 10/2 (East) and 10/5 (West), 7th and 8th graders should contact Ms. Y to complete an audition, and all auditions must be complete by 10/5; holiday concerts; 5th grade **PMEA SongFest auditions** in January. It's not too late to join the Chorus, Band or Orchestra. Call your school office for more info.*

The DMCA visual arts program continues to grow, with classes scheduled throughout the week at every grade level. At DMCA East and West, **Ms. Beverly J. Struble's** PreK-6 curriculum features unique mentoring opportunities, with older students like 5th grader **Donovan Thompson** (pictured below) helping younger students, including PreK students **Vincent Casey** and **Callie Pritts**. On the Bishop McCort campus, DMCA 7th and 8th graders work with **Mrs. Amanda Fetro-Woodruff** to develop their skills across artistic genres.

The middle school curriculum features hands-on studio work days that give students, including **Charlize Amper** (pictured below), the opportunity to complete short daily art exercises that reinforce fundamental skills.

Both educators take a holistic approach to visual arts education, an approach that includes developing learning objectives; identifying activities to support those objectives; determining appropriate assessment markers; and then creating lessons that meet these goals.

*Coming up: K-6 families can place orders to have students' **original artwork** printed on a variety of gift items - order forms will be distributed in November; **Divinely Drawn**, a Diocesan-wide K-12 art show at the Bottleworks in February; and **Johnstown Schools Student Art Show** at the Community Arts Center in May.*



The spiritual and faith formation of every student is at the heart of all we do. This year, we're enriching our K-6 religious curriculum with three new programs: **Christ is RICH in Me**, which focuses on the values of Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Humility; **Faith Families**, made up of students from every grade who will meet throughout the year to share their faith; and **Arise Together in Christ**, the classroom version of the *Arise* program happening across the Diocese now. More info is coming soon.



Dr. Susan Resnick (2nd from left), a nationally-recognized *Math in Focus* facilitator, recently shared mathematics teaching strategies and best practices with DMCA math teachers in grades 4, 5 and 6 during a day-long training session. **Mrs. Laura Swank, Mr. Jay Hicks, Mrs. Denise Nairn** (l-r) and their colleagues tested a range of interactive *Math in Focus* materials that are now used in our K-6 classrooms. Dr. Resnick will meet with K-3 math teachers in November to introduce them to effective K-3 teaching practices for the *Math in Focus* program.

*Coming up: Ongoing **LTRS literacy training and professional development** for K-6 teachers in October and in the spring.*

STREAM ON ... STREAM ON ... STREAM ON ...
The latest news from our STREAM initiative

Our 7th and 8th graders are starting to design, create and engineer their futures in our new STREAM lab. Combining everyday items with the latest technologies, including a vinyl printer/cutter, CNC mill, laser engraver, and a 3D printer, students are becoming familiar with technologies and methodologies used in today's in-demand professions. Students will also be able take their interests in Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics (STREAM) to the next level as members of the DMCA Technology Student Association (TSA). TSA, under the direction of STREAM instructor **Brandt Hutzel**, will compete at the regional, state, and national level in over 35 STREAM-related competitive events. Students can stop by Mr. Hutzel's classroom anytime for more information on TSA and to sign up.

From left: 7th graders Ava Mitchell and Lauren Conrad construct a paper tower, using limited materials, with a goal of being as tall as possible. Classmates Erik Euen and Brock Beppler test their structural engineering design solutions by supporting as much weight as possible.

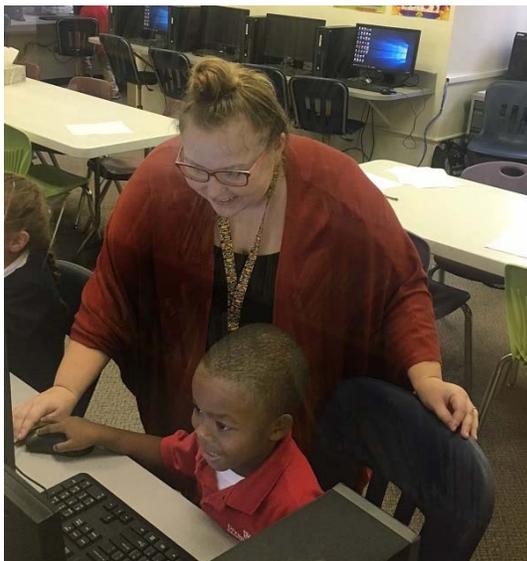
*Coming up: **TSA parent meeting** for interested 7-12 students; 5th grade **Pumpkin Chunkin** with St. Francis University; **First Lego League (FLL) scrimmage**; ongoing FLL practice at East and West campuses; **FLL competition** in January.*



Mrs. Mary Fleck, PreK-6 Computer Science

Meet **Mrs. Fleck**, DMCA's PreK-6 Computer Science teacher. A six-year veteran of Catholic education, Mrs. Fleck holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education and is currently pursuing her principal's certification. Her hands-on, student-centered approach resonates at both campuses, where she splits her time helping children progress from basic keyboarding and data entry to robotics coding and beyond.

Beginning in 3rd grade, Mrs. Fleck dedicates the 4th marking period to interactive projects that strengthen students' research, teamwork, creative, critical thinking, and communication skills. For example, 4th graders choose an historical event and create a newspaper or other computer-based materials to share with classmates. In 5th grade, students map out a roadtrip, from directions to budgets and attractions to brochures. By 6th grade, students create a business plan, including product budgets and advertising materials.



*DMCA Kindergartner **Derrick Holloman** is all smiles as he works with Mrs. Fleck during a recent computer science class. Visit [Mrs. Fleck's webpage](#) to learn more about her and her grade-by-grade learning objectives.*

In the Spotlight is a new feature to help DMCA families and friends become more familiar with faculty members. We'll feature educators across all grades and subject areas, and we look forward to sharing their skills and perspectives with you.

2018
2nd Annual **CASHO PUMPKIN BASH**
DMCA PTO

HALLOWEEN
COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED!

Saturday, October 13th

Doors open 6:00 pm—Dinner 6:30 pm
DMCA East Campus Cafeteria
2306 Bedford Street
Donation \$25 / ticket

Includes dinner, FREE beverages & dessert
\$100 winner pulled every 15 minutes starting at 7:15 pm
Grand Prize of \$500 drawn at 9:00 pm
Additional raffles throughout the evening. Must be 21.

Reserve your tickets [here!](#)

If you'd like to help the PTO offset the cost of the event, donate items for the raffle (i.e. sporting tickets, electronics, lottery tickets, bottles of wine or liquor, large craft items) or volunteer at the event, please contact PTO President **Kelly Fetzko** [here](#). Volunteers can also sign up for a shift [here](#). Many thanks for your support. See you on the 13th!



IMPORTANT DATES!

10/2 Gr 6 East County Chorus Auditions

10/2 Marianna fundraiser orders due

10/3 PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm, BMCHS

10/4 Title 1 Q/A, 6 pm, BMCHS

10/5 Gr 6 West County Chorus Auditions (all 6-8 auditions must be complete by 10/5)

10/8 No School - Middle States Accreditation

10/10 7th/8th Grade Early Dismissal - PSATs

10/13 [PTO Cash Bash](#), East Campus

10/26 No School - In-Service

10/30 End of 1st Marking Period

Check out the [DMCA Google calendar](#) for more school-wide events and specific happenings at each campus. Our 7th and 8th graders should also review the [Bishop McCort calendar](#) for important dates throughout the year.

The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to promote exceptional, faith-based academics that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.

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Do you know someone who wants to stay updated on DMCA happenings? Tell us! We would be happy to include them!

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Questions? Comments? Please contact us [here](#).