



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

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From the President

Fellow CTU Members,

It's difficult to believe that we've been back to school a month already, isn't it? I hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready for a new school year. It's been a busy summer for CTU. We've negotiated one year contracts with both Camden Catholic and Holy Spirit.

We have had an issue with a diocesan high school teacher who tried to interview for a transfer to a position at another diocesan high school. The interview was canceled at the last minute after a consultation between the interviewing school and the superintendent's office. It was decided that it was too close to the start of the school year to allow transfers. I met with Dr. Watson and followed up my visit with a letter reiterating my objections. Unfortunately, there was not much more to be done. The message had already been signaled to the school that they were not to interview teachers from other schools. Going forward, I did ask Dr. Watson to determine a date beyond which transfers will not be considered for future openings and inform CTU, and he agreed.

Lastly, if you have a child who graduated from high school last year (June 2022) and is attending any type of continuing education (college, trade school, cosmetology, etc.), that child is eligible to apply for a CTU scholarship. See your building delegate for details.

Wishing you the very best in the coming school year,

Mary Kay Rossi
CTU President



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[Express Scripts \[Prescription\]](#)

[Delta Dental of NJ](#)

[Vision Benefits of America](#)

[Life/Long Term Disability](#)

[403\(b\) \[Retirement Plan\]](#)

[ABCO Credit Union](#)

[Camden Diocese Human Resources](#)

Layout/Editor: Len Cava (PVI)



From the Executive Vice-President

Social Media and Communication Reminders

The following pieces of information are just reminders about good practices to follow regarding the use of social media and communication with both students and parents during the school year. Hopefully, you find these helpful.

Social Media:

- Be sure not to post anything on your social media accounts that you would not want your “grandmother “ to see. (Good advice)
- “Assume” that everything that you post to social media can be viewed by everyone, including school administration.
- If you use social media for your classes, clubs, activities, sports, etc., that you are involved with at school, be sure to give access to a school administrator as well.
- Always verify that your personal social media settings are on PRIVATE.

Communication:

- Be sure to use only your school email/phone number when communicating with both students and parents.
- Do not give out your personal email address or phone number to students or parents.
- Be sure to keep all levels of school communications professional. (Avoid personal and emotional statements in your responses.)
- Please inform the principal (administration) about any inappropriate statements made by any parent towards you as well.
- Before hitting the send button on an email, look over your response, take a deep breath, and if need be, ask a colleague to take a look at it before sending it.

--Enjoy the new school year.

Bob Cranston
CTU Executive Vice President

Treasury Report

There is nothing unusual to report regarding our finances. Things are operating normally in terms of the ebbs and flows of our fiscal year. As of the end of August, we are operating at a balance of \$158,555.70. While this balance is lower than it was when we sent our last newsletter, it is typical for

this dip to occur over the summer months when we don't collect union dues. As always, please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns.

Matt Hoover
CTU Treasurer



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Medical News

September 2022 brings major changes to the medical insurance at Camden Catholic.

The cost of coverage has changed at all three high schools. The Horizon PPO plan has been replaced with Horizon Advantage EPO at each school. The plan has no out of network coverage, the emergency department copay is now \$100, after which the facility is covered 100% and specialist services at 80%. The EPO plan does not require referrals. In-network physicians can be found at www.horizonblue.com under the plan name ADVANTAGE EPO.

You can find benefit summaries on the Diocese Benefits website www.docbenefits.hrintouch.com. Check to see if your Philly doctors are in-network. We are informed that HUP, Jefferson, CHOP, Temple, Pennsylvania, and Hahnemann Hospitals are in- network.

The teachers who buy-up to Direct Access will still have access to out-of-network providers with a deductible of \$750 per individual, \$1500 per family. The DA plan and new EPO plan both have an in-network deductible of \$500 per individual, \$1000

per family. Again, no referral is required to see a specialist. Deductibles carry through until December 31st.

Teachers with DA have a \$100 copay for emergency room services and the 80% coverage of additional costs. Use of urgent care centers rather than emergency rooms was encouraged by the diocesan insurance representatives.

The network of providers should be unchanged. The EPO and DA plans both cover emergency room visits out of state. Both plans cover lab work 100% at Labcorp and Quest.

The cost of the medical plan increased about 9%, while the vision plan is at the same cost as it was in 2021-2022. It is highly recommended that members investigate the wellness programs on the diocesan website or HorizonbFit.com.

Kevin Gallagher
CTU Area Vice-President

Contact Information

Medical Plan	800-355-2583	www.HorizonBlue.com
Prescription Plan	800-451-6245	www.Express-scripts.com
Dental Plan	866-328-1319	www.Deltadentalnj.com
Vision Plan	800-432-4966	www.VBAplans.com
Life/Long-Term Disability	877-225-2712	www.Unum.com
Issues: Contact Candy Newhouse	856-583-2872	candynewhouse@ajg.com cnewhouse@camdendiocese.org



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

Report of Schools

Holy Spirit High School

Holy Spirit began the new school year with the annual teachers' meeting on Thursday, September 1. Five new teachers were welcomed during this meeting as Dr. Farren outlined our yearly goals. Later in the day, also continuing a recent tradition, the school rented a tour boat out of Gardiner's Basin in the inlet section of Atlantic City, and we had a leisurely two-hour sail in the ocean and back bay. We were able to use this time to relive summer fun and get to know some of the new teachers.

The freshmen class, which will be the 100th graduating class of Holy Spirit, began with a full day on Tuesday Sept 6th. The next day, the entire student body was present to begin the school year.

While there are still scheduling problems to fix, one cannot help but feel the excitement and anticipation that usually accompanies the opening of a school year. With many special activities scheduled to celebrate the school's 100th anniversary, all of us have high hopes for an outstanding school year. Surge On - Go Spartans.

Scott Higbee
CTU Area Vice President

Paul VI High School

Paul VI opened this school year with a new principal, Mr. Philip Gianfortune, and a grievance. The teacher orientation was scheduled for September 1st. Following past practice, Paul VI does not open before Labor Day. There was no notification of this change before school ended in June. Teachers unable to attend this new start date were told by administration they would have to take a personal day. The union president and building delegate met with administration over the summer, the grievance was filed at the principal's level, and it was later denied. The union then had a follow up meeting with Superintendent Bill Watson on August 29th. CTU was told there was insufficient time to postpone the start date, and therefore most teachers did report on September 1st. Superintendent Watson agreed the faculty should meet with liaison in good faith early in the second semester to discuss relevant parts of the calendar in future.

Paul VI is in good financial standing. We ended the 2022 school year with an \$11,000 surplus and had the football field turf redone over the summer.

Paul VI is maintaining its enrollment, graduating 257 students in June and enrolling 255 freshmen for this current year. The total number of students is 959 for the 2022-23 school year. Students are back in session full time with a smile and no remote learning protocols. Everyone is looking forward to a great school year.

Kelly Ogle
CTU Delegate