



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

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www.ctunj.com



From the President

As the school year quickly comes to an end, for some of us it doesn't come quickly enough. I just want to take a moment to thank everyone for all of your hard work and dedication this year. I, together with the other members of the Executive Board, am privileged to work alongside such an outstanding group of educators who do so much on a daily basis to better the lives of their students and school communities. Take time during these summer months to rest, relax, and rejuvenate with family and friends. Everyone deserves this break.

This coming October our national union, NACST (National Association of Catholic School Teachers) will be holding elections for the positions of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and up to (4) Vice Presidents at Large. More information will be forthcoming regarding the upcoming elections, but at this time any union member in good standing who may be interested in running for one of these positions is being asked to submit an email with his or her non-binding intention to run to nacst@verizon.net by June 15th. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about the elections.

As I wrote in the October newsletter, the months of July and August will be here soon enough after our work has been done. Well, all of our hard work is nearing completion and the summer months are now at our doorsteps.

Enjoy your summer.

I hope to see all of you at the Kove for our annual end of the year membership meeting on June 16th.

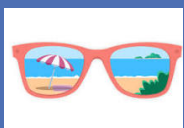
Bob Cranston
CTU President



CTU General Membership Meeting at

the Kove June 16, 2026

5:00pm-8:00pm



Executive Board

Bob Cranston (CC)
President

Ben Jones (PVI)
Executive Vice
President

Maureen Simzak (PVI)
Executive Secretary

Jamie (Bottino) Ruiz
(PVI) Treasurer

Delegates

Scott Higbee (HS)

Bob Moffett (CC)

Kelly Ogle (PVI)

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*Layout/Editor:
Len Cava (PVI)*

**CTU MEMBERS ONLY PAGE
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From the Executive Vice-President

Dear Colleagues,

As another school year comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the work you've put in throughout the year. Teaching is never an easy job, and every year seems to bring a new set of challenges. Whether you're finishing your first year in the classroom or your thirtieth, making it to June is an accomplishment worth celebrating.

As we head into summer, I know most of us are looking forward to a chance to relax, spend time with family and friends, and catch up on some much needed rest. Before we completely switch into summer mode, I wanted to share a few reminders about some of the benefits and resources available to CTU members.

If you're taking graduate courses, certification classes, or professional development opportunities this summer, remember to keep copies of your paperwork and receipts. Many members take advantage of tuition reimbursement benefits each year. If you have questions regarding eligibility or reimbursement procedures, review your contract or contact your school's administration office. Summer can also be a good time to take a look at your retirement planning. Eligible members receive employer contributions to a 403(b) retirement account, and even a quick review of your current contributions can help you stay on track toward your long term goals.

When it comes to healthcare, many of us don't think about our benefits until we need them. Medical coverage, prescription benefits, dental plans, vision coverage, life insurance, and long term disability protection are all important parts of our contracts.

If you have questions regarding your healthcare or benefits, please contact Andrea Barcenas, Diocesan Benefits Representative, at healthbenefits@camdendiocese.org or (856) 583-2872.

For members with children attending diocesan or parish high schools, don't forget to review the tuition benefits available through your contract. These benefits can provide significant savings and are one of the many advantages available to CTU members. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to your school's administration.

Although summer break is here, the Executive Board remains available to assist members with contractual questions or concerns that may arise. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to your delegate or another member of the Executive Board.

Most importantly, I hope each of you takes some time this summer to relax and recharge. Spend time with the people who matter most, enjoy a break from the daily routine, and come back refreshed for the year ahead.

Thank you for everything you do for your students, your schools, and your fellow educators. Enjoy your summer.

In Solidarity,

Ben Jones
CTU Executive Vice





CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

Treasury Report

As of April 2026, the CTU maintains a balance of \$267,417.27. With dues continuing to be collected throughout the school year and increased returns on our investments, the union remains in a strong financial position. To further strengthen our financial stability, we are exploring opportunities to invest our funds in a high-yield savings account. We anticipate a slight decrease in our balance as we cover end-of-year expenses such as the CTU General Membership meeting. Despite these costs, we continue to strive for financial growth and stability as we conclude the school year.

As always, detailed quarterly financial reports can be found on the CTU membership page. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Have a great end to the school year!

Thank you,

Jamie Ruiz
CTU Treasurer

Report on Schools

Paul VI High School

Paul VI is completing its first year of our 4-year contract. As part of the agreement, all faculty are now paid in 24-installments, so that teachers will continue to receive paychecks in the months of July and August. No voluntary deductions, such as union dues or medical benefits, will be taken out of the paychecks in the summer months.

CTU filed two grievances this year that reached the superintendent's level. In February, teacher schedules were modified to include hall duty. This duty had not been implemented by the school in years. Once in place, some of these hall duties were then cancelled on any given day when additional teachers were required for classroom substitutions. CTU filed the first hall duty grievance under Article VIII, asserting that the school must follow the September roster. The principal denied the grievance; however, the superintendent, Dr. Bill Watson, upheld the grievance, and teachers' schedules reverted to their original September rosters. At the time, CTU became aware that these February replacement schedules had not been equitably distributed, and, while awaiting the original grievance response, CTU filed a second grievance, asserting that a schedule must align

with the contract for equitable distribution. Neither the school principal nor the superintendent addressed the issue of equitable distribution in their responses to this grievance. Dr. Watson's response indicated that this matter should be discussed at a liaison committee meeting. It is the union's position that the joint liaison committee is only empowered to address non-contractual issues. Teachers on the committee are not required to be on the CTU executive board, and thus have no ability to enforce or alter the teacher contract. The executive board intends to meet with the principal and vice principal prior to the issuance of tentative and final rosters to ensure the contract is followed for the upcoming school year. Next year the school will open with a lower total student enrollment than in previous years, graduating more students this year than are registered for the incoming freshman class. Nonetheless, overall student enrollment continues to be strong, and there will be no teacher constrictions. However, one teacher has resigned from math/business, and another is retiring from the history department. Both positions are expected to be filled.

Kelly Ogle
PVI Delegate

Contact Information

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|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| 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 | 866-939-3633 | www.EyeMed.com |
| Life/Long-Term Disability | 877-225-2712 | www.Unum.com |
| Issues: | 856-583-2872 | healthbenefits@camdendiocese.org |
| Contact Andrea Barcenas | | |



CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

Report of Schools continued

Holy Spirit High School

It's the homestretch for the Spirit Family, and the school year that began with the usual mixture of the last remnants of the fading summer and the typical anticipation of new challenges and expectations is drawing to another close.

The past few months have been filled with the usual combination of athletics, the school musical, the Whiz Quiz contest for area middle-schoolers, prom, AP testing and our Spring Concert. These were all wonderful successes and lasting memories for our students. For the seniors, the culmination of their high school years will be Commencement on June 7th.

Recruitment for incoming freshmen has been outstanding this year. We began in September with 67 ninth-graders. We will graduate 79 seniors but have already registered 87 freshmen for next year, with several more anticipated. A special shout-out to Enrollment Coordinator Kim Byrnes as well as our Advancement team, administrators and faculty. We are confident that Holy Spirit is coming back.

We will be losing a few teachers at the end of the year as a science teacher and a religion/special needs teacher will be moving on. We wish them well.

Additionally, we are searching for: a full-time guidance counselor, a full-time special needs teacher, a part-time para-professional and a part-time (one day/week) administrative assistant.

All-in-all, the atmosphere around the school is very positive and teacher morale has been the highest in years. Kudos to all of the faculty and staff and to second-year Head-of-School Mike McGhee for his hard work and dedication to Holy Spirit.

Now it's time for all of us to get some much-needed rest. Have a great summer.

Scott Higbee
HS Delegate

Camden Catholic High School

On June 5th, the school celebrated Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement for its 135 graduating seniors. We wish this class the very best as they leave the halls of CCHS.

CCHS honored the legacy of Wayne "Pancho" Nystrom by initiating the Wayne Nystrom Memorial Scholarship fund with a ceremony on June 8th. Wayne (Pancho) was a long-tenured math teacher and a member of CTU's Executive Board for many years who passed away earlier this year.

During the month of May, CCHS continued celebrating the legacy of former math teacher and guidance counselor Jack Phipps who passed away in 2023. While honoring Jack's memory during Mental Health Awareness Month in May, CCHS continues to raise money for the Jack Phipps Memorial Fund for scholarships and mental health initiatives at the school.

Currently, our incoming freshman class enrollment for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year is 173 students.

Two teachers joined the faculty during the second semester. Donna Maccherone, who had retired a few years ago, was hired back to teach English after John Duffy resigned at the beginning of January. In addition, Abigail Haley was hired to teach in our General Arts Department after Mitch McCleery

resigned at the start of the semester as well. We thank both John and Mitch for all they did for CCHS.

Science teacher An "Doc" Nguyen resigned at the end of April. During her eight years of teaching, An was instrumental in the development of both the Design Thinking and Robotics classes at CCHS. Under An's tutelage, the Robotics Team competed in the VEX Robotics World Championship for the second consecutive year. We thank An for everything that she did for CCHS and wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Congratulations to teachers An Nguyen, Regina Knowlton and Bridget Blash who were recently named Regional Champions in the 2026 Presidential AI Challenge. An, Regina, and Bridget will now go to Washington D.C. in early June to represent the region in the finals.

Bob Cranston
CTU President