From left, Isabella Zamora, Sofia Evans and Vanessa Zamora enter the church at St. John Regional Catholic School on Friday dressed in traditional garb to celebrate the Feast of Guadalupe during Mass.

BREAKING BARRIERS

St. John Regional Catholic School aims to double Hispanic enrollment

By EMMA KERR
ekerr@newspost.com

Belen Evans' husband is American and was also raised Catholic like her, but she said she sometimes still finds herself in religious conversations saying, "That's not how I do it in my country!" She is a Spanish-speaking parent at St. John, where students celebrated the Feast of Guadalupe for the first time this week at the school during its Friday Mass — a chance, she said, for Frederick's growing Hispanic population to see the true diversity of believers and cultures within the Catholic faith.

"We have our beliefs, but we also have devotions," Evans said. "Devotions come with culture, and the faith and culture merge. We are one community. We are different, but at the same time we are all united by one message, which is Mary and the love she has for us."

A few years after the Archdiocese of Baltimore declared that the survival of Catholic private schools depended upon its ability to tap into Maryland's ballooning Hispanic population, St. John Regional Catholic School has done just that. Celebrating the Patroness of the Americas during the school-wide Mass represented the work of merging of cultures and languages that has been

(See MASS B2)

Staff photos by Dan Gross

Gabriel Hernandez enters the church Friday carrying a rose to celebrate the Feast of Guadalupe.

Staff photos by Dan Gross

From left, Vanessa Zamora, Isabella Zamora and Cathy Martinez are dressed in traditional garb Friday during Mass at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick.

Mass

(Continued from B1)

underway for at least two years now at St. John Regional. Soon, school leaders hope with additional scholarships and a welcoming environment, the number of Hispanic students enrolled will double.

Of the 507 students enrolled at St. John, 44 of them are Hispanic. The Hispanic enrollment is particularly concentrated in the younger grades, Principal Karen Smith said, a result of changes made after attending a Latino Enrollment Institute through the University of Notre Dame.

"The Latino population is a huge growing population in the Catholic faith, and yet a lot of them don't send their children to Catholic schools," Smith said. "That might be because they don't think they could afford it, and so we've been trying to work really closely with the families to be able to offer them financial assistance."

Beyond scholarships, St. John also hired a Spanish speaker to help overcome communication barriers

"We are not just a small village in a bubble," Rubio said. "This helps them to understand what they see in the news. ... They will know that children like them are somewhere in the world suffering, and we need to have that compassion to open as much as we can, and give a chance to everyone. We need to make them feel welcome and that they are worth saving. That's how we learn to be compassionate, by looking at people around us and doing something for others, by learning a small aspect of other people's lives like the language or the culture."

Belen's son Thomas Evans, who is in sixth grade at St. John, said the Mass brought the Hispanic community together in a new way. He said he hopes that if more Spanish-speaking students come to St. John, it will feel more like home.

"Around here it's hard to represent our culture, since we are surrounded by a lot of people who don't speak our language," he said. "Our Lady Guadalupe is a symbol of our faith. It's about bringing together a group of people who form a bigger com-

Maryland girl with no hands wins handwriting competition

By MARISSA J. LANG
The Washington Post

Sara Hinesley, 10, doesn't understand why it's so remarkable that she won a national handwriting competition.

She paints and draws and sculpts clay. She can write in English and some Mandarin. When she learned to write in cursive this year, Sara said, she thought it was "kind of easy."

Never mind the fact that Sara was born without hands.

"I have never heard this little girl say, 'I can't,'" said Cheryl Churilla, Sara's third-grade teacher. "She's a little rock star. She tackles absolutely everything you can throw at her, and she gives it her best."

Sara, a third-grade student at St. John's Regional Catholic School in Frederick, Maryland, won the 2019 Nicholas Maxim award for her cursive handwriting. The award is given annually to two students with special needs — one for print writing, the other for script.

Sara has never worn a prosthetic. When she is offered help or a tool that might ease some tasks — like cutting paper with scissors — she rejects it, said her mother, Cathryn Hinesley.

"She has this independent streak where she just knows that she can do it and she'll figure out her own way," Hinesley said. "She is beautiful and strong and mighty just the way she is, and she just lives that way. She really does."

To write, Sara grips her pencil between her arms. She focuses on the shapes of letters, each point and curve. Writing in cursive feels like creating artwork, Sara said.

"I like the way the letters are formed," Sara said. "It's kind of like art."

Sara came to the United States from China about four years ago to join her new family. When she arrived in July 2015, her mother said, she could speak and write in Mandarin. She picked up English quickly with the help of her sister, Veronica.

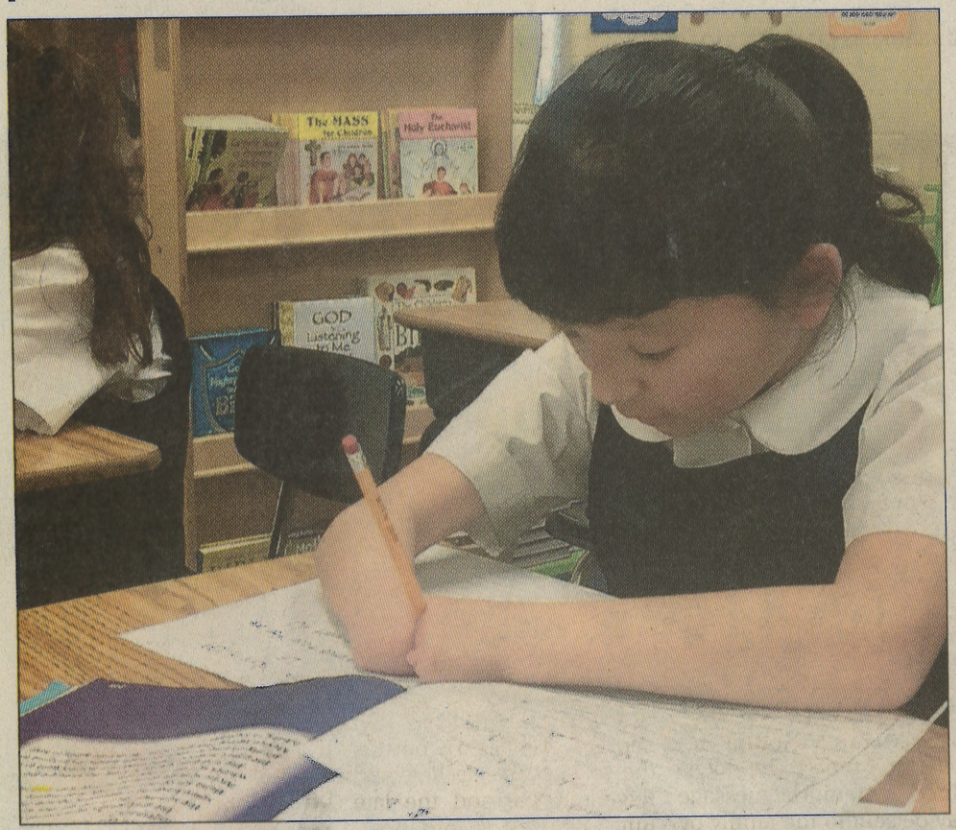
"We learned pretty quickly to trust her judgment and let her gauge how much she wants to do and then let her do it," Hinesley said. "That's Sara. She moves through life in this way that you never really see her as having a disability because she has this can-do, I-can-tackle-anything attitude."

In her free time, Sara likes to draw "things that are around me," like sunflowers. She enjoys swimming, playing with Veronica, also 10, and participating in her school's chess club. There's little she isn't willing to try, her mother said.

"Sara is a testament to perseverance and the human spirit," Hinesley said. "Every day I'm amazed at the things she is able to do and that she chooses to do. She doesn't try to find her way to avoid an obstacle, she finds a way to complete the task."

Sara will receive her national award — a trophy — at an awards ceremony on June 13. The award also comes with a $500 prize. She is the first student from St. John's to ever receive the Nicholas Maxim award, Principal Kathy Smith said.

"I feel so excited and proud," she said.



The Washington Post

Sara Hinesley, 10, a student at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick.

A Publication of the Frederick County Catholic Schools Coordinating Committee

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The Frederick County Catholic Schools Coordinating Committee (FCCSCC) is comprised of representatives of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Frederick County Catholic Schools, Friends of Catholic Education, and local clergy. The mission of the Committee is to work collaboratively to coordinate the continuing advancement of Catholic School education in Frederick County.

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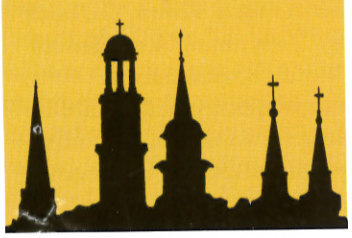


St. John Regional Catholic School is "Embracing Our Latino Community"

Through a collective effort within the St. John Regional Catholic School community, we are reaching out to our local Latino brothers and sisters through a project called "Embracing Our Latino Community." SJRCS has also partnered with Sonia S. Demiray, owner of Demiray Incorporated, to build a strategic marketing plan to invite Latino families that seek a Catholic education for their children. This has not only been a marketing venture, but has enhanced the culture of our school by making it accessible to our Latino population and including Spanish as part of our language program. We have hired a Spanish speaking assistant through a generous grant from the Raskob Foundation, who helps to answer questions for Spanish speaking parents and assists them with the admission process.

In December, we celebrated the Feast of Lady Guadalupe at a Mass led by Father Juan Rubio from St. Timothy Catholic Church. This was a beautiful celebration and informative for all the students, as they learned the importance of The Lady of Guadalupe. The feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is celebrated on December 12. For Mexicans and Mexican-Americans as well as other Latinos, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a powerful symbol of devotion, identity, and patriotism. Our Lady of Guadalupe is an inextricable part of Mexican and Mexican-American culture. Parents from our Latino community helped plan the celebration.

Every child who seeks it, should have the opportunity to receive a faith filled education and SJRCS is here to support that endeavor with educational and financial resources. To help support those that may need financial assistance, we have started the Saint Junipera Serra Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is named after American's first Hispanic Saint. We hope to grow this fund into an endowment to support Latino students for generations to come.

Catholic SCHOOLS
St. John Regional Catholic School
STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

St. John Regional Catholic School started this outreach as a result of attending a Latino Enrollment Institute sponsored by Notre Dame University. At the institute, we learned the importance of the Latino community to our church and the need for outreach to them. We continually noticed more and more Latino students living in our community, going to our churches, but realized we were not meeting their educational needs. We now have over 40 students enrolled that are from Latino decent and hope to reach out to many more families as we grow this program.

Lions Club peace poster winners honored

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Nicole Chowdhuny, an eighth-grade student at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, placed first in the Peace Poster Contest sponsored by the Lions Clubs of District 22W. Winners were announced on Nov. 17 at the Myersville Volunteer Fire Department, Myersville, by the contest chairman, Lioness Lesley Smith of the Hagerstown Lionesss Club. Nicole's poster, submitted by the Frederick Lions Club, was among more than 350,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International has sponsored this program for over 30 years to encourage young people worldwide to express their visions of peace. The theme of the 2018-19 Peace Poster Contest is "Kindness Matters." The award for first prize is $100 and a certificate.

Nicole Chowdhuny

Lioness Smith asked the judges to not only select a winner, but to critique each poster in an academic way, so that the young artists would benefit and learn from this experience.

The second-prize winner was Jane Orellana, whose poster was submitted by the Frederick Lions Club and attends the seventh grade at the Frederick After School Program in Frederick. The award for second prize is $60 and a certificate.

The third-prize winner was Samantha Heyison, whose poster was submitted by the Frederick Lions Club. She is in the eighth grade at The Banner School in Frederick. The award for third prize is $40 and a certificate.

In addition, two honorable mention awards were recognized; one went to Carolena Cepeda, a seventh-grade student of New Life Christian School in Frederick and was sponsored by the Frederick Lions Club. The other went to Janay Badoe, an eighth-grade student at Springfield Middle School and was sponsored by the Williamsport Lions Club. Both received a $25 prize award and a certificate.

Lions Club District 22W District Governor Gerry Beachy, left, and Lioness Lesley Smith, right, hold the winning poster created by Nicole Chowdhuny.

Courtesy photos

Nicole's winning poster was entered into the Multiple District 22 competition competing with the winning posters from the four other districts of MD22. If she places first there, her poster will be sent to Lions Clubs International headquarters where it will compete with winners from all over the world. The winning prize at this level is $5,000 plus a trip to the United Nations on Lions Clubs Day at the United Nations on March 9, 2019. In addition to the grand prize, 23 merit award winners will receive $500 and a certificate of achievement.

Students who will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on Nov. 15, 2019 and who wish to enter next year's contest are encouraged to contact their nearest Lions club to get information on how to do this. Kits for next year's contest will be available on Jan. 15.

District 22-W clubs are listed on the 22-W website http://www.e-district.org/sites/22w. Past international grand-prize winning posters are viewable on the Lions Clubs International website, www.lionsclubs.org.

Submissions for Neighbors

Submit news for the Neighbors pages by email to community@newspost.com or by mail to Neighbors, The Frederick News-Post, 351 Ballenger Center Drive, Frederick, MD 21703. Include a daytime phone number in case we have questions.

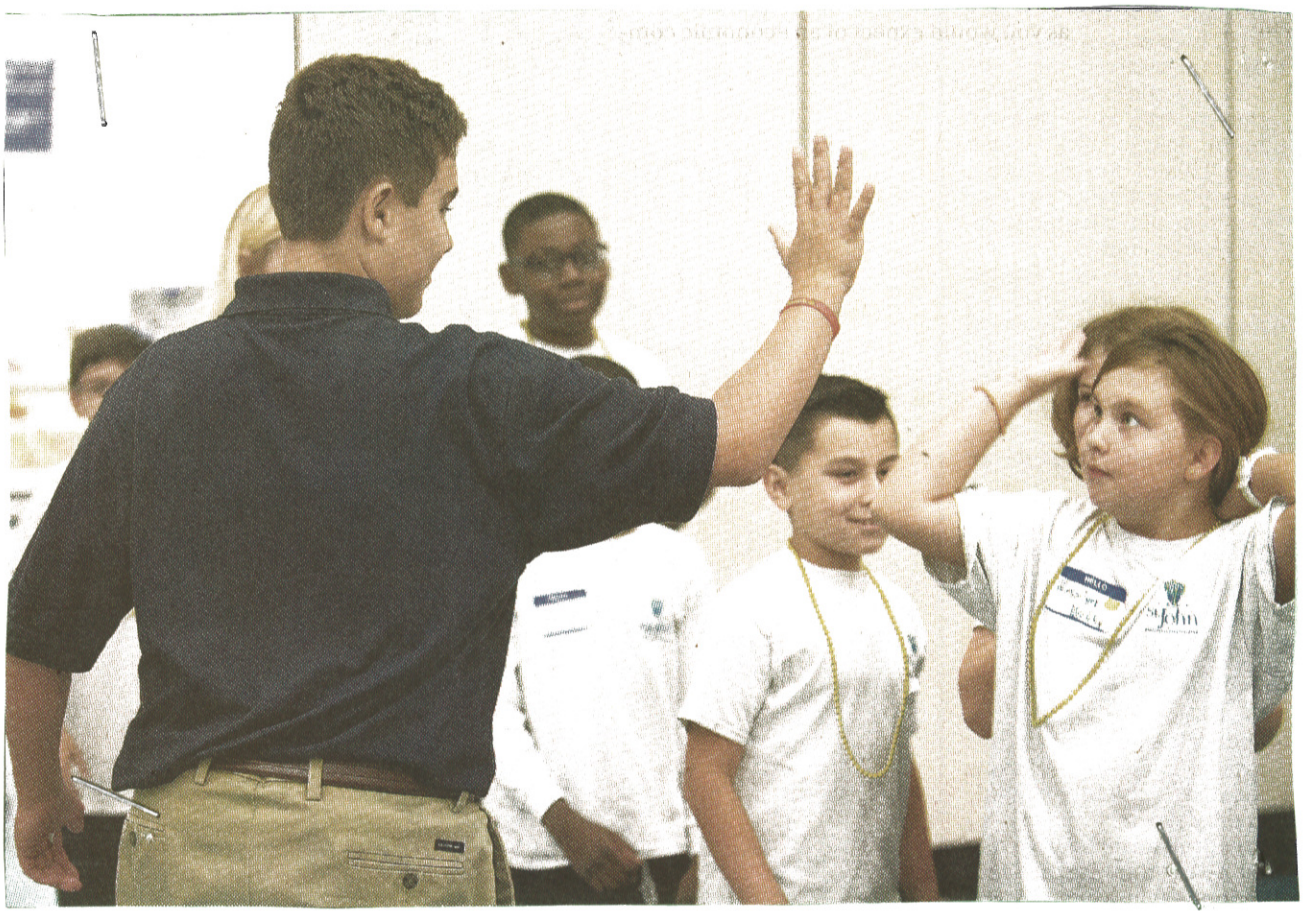
The Neighbors pages are for noncommercial use by civic groups, charities, clubs and other nonprofit groups.

For upcoming events, submit items at least two weeks before the event. For recognition of past events, submit items within three weeks after the event.

Event photos should be clear and in focus. The people in the photo should fill the frame. Candid photos are preferred over posed photos. Identify everyone in the photo from left to right, by row, as well as who shot the photo.

Photos sent by email must be a separate attachment. Any photo embedded in a document cannot be used.

The Frederick News-Post reserves the right to edit all submissions.


HELLO

Staff photos by Bill Green

First-grade classmates Jaylen Azane, left, and Gabriel Hernandez talk after the Start With Hello anti-bullying program Tuesday at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Start with hello

St. John Regional Catholic School students learn to take on violence

By EMMA KERR
ekerr@newspost.com

For the first time, St. John Regional Catholic School students joined their peers at Frederick County Public Schools and across the country to participate in the national Start With Hello Week, a youth violence prevention program sponsored by the nonprofit group that formed after the deadly 2012

(See **HELLO** A4)

Classmates Valerie Alfaro, left, and Mikaela Unda talk after the Start With Hello anti-bullying program Tuesday at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Staff photo by Graham Cullen

Kaden Hnath slides safely under the tag of Montgomery County's Noah Satriano during the Frederick National Lions' win Monday evening in the Gregg Quedeweit Memorial Tournament of Champions. View and purchase sports photos at www.fnpinfocus.com.

LITTLE LEAGUE

LEAVING AN IMPRESSION

Workman's hitting leads Frederick National's Lions to Quedeweit tournament title

Gregg Quedeweit Memorial Tournament of Champions:
Frederick National Lions 12, Montgomery County Red Sox 2

By BILL CAULEY
bcauley@newspost.com

It was Marshall Workman's final game as a member of Frederick National Little League's Lions team, and he left quite an impression as he heads into all-star play.

The Lions' third baseman delivered in all four of his at-bats against Montgomery County Little League's Red Sox on Monday in the championship game of the Gregg Quedeweit Memorial Tournament of Champions at East Frederick Little League.

6 — he wanted to go out a winner for his regular-season team.

"This is pretty exciting stuff," Workman said. "It's my first time as a member of the 10-12 all-star team, so I'm looking forward to the districts."

Batting fifth, he didn't chase any bad pitches. Workman connected on a 1-1 fastball for a single to right field in the top of the first inning. With one out in the third, he belted an RBI double to left, then beat out an infield single in a 12-batter fourth. Finally, Workman led off the sixth with a

Staff photo by Graham Cullen

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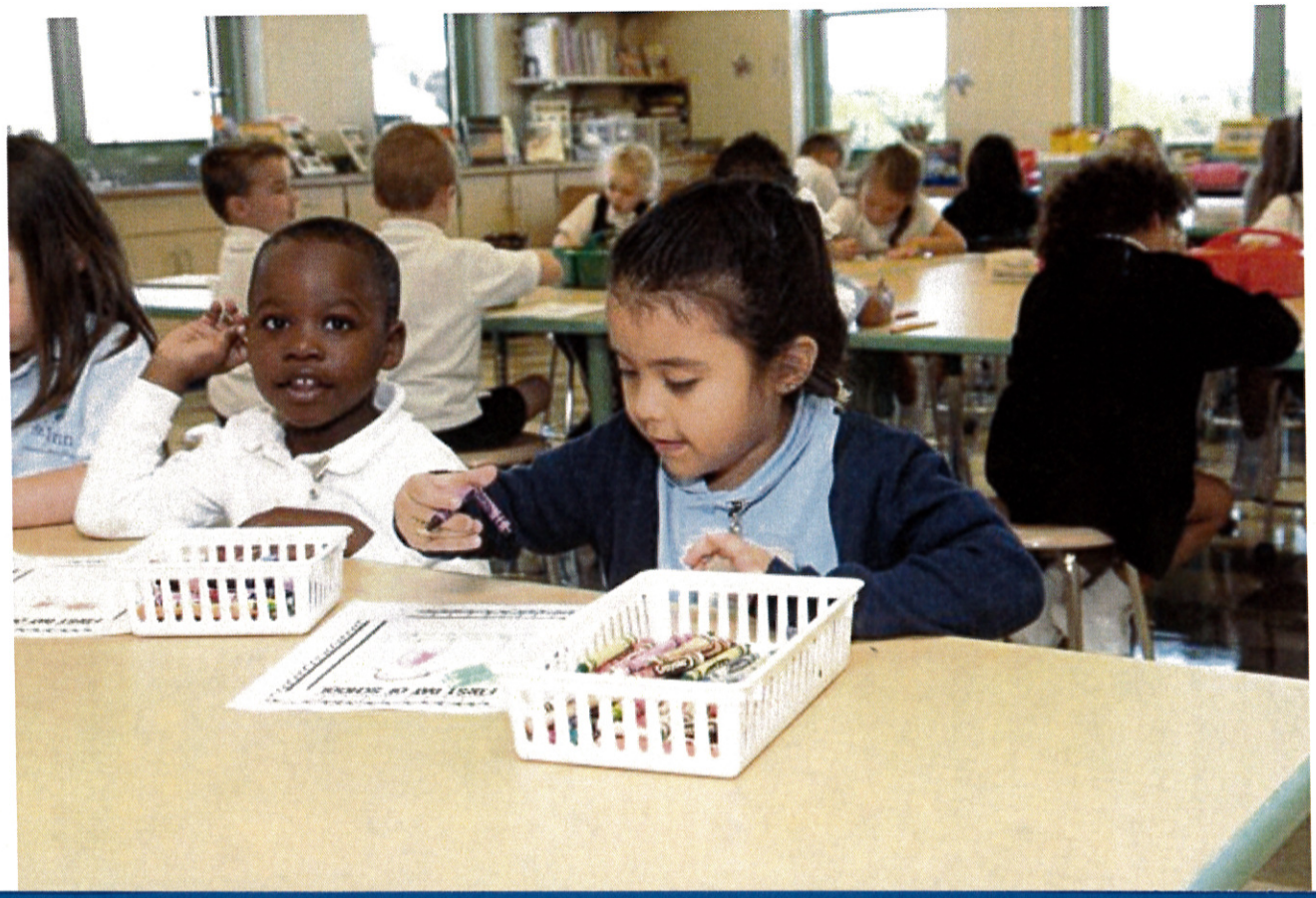
St. John Regional Catholic School Open House

This event occurred on Sunday, October 28th, 2018 @ 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

St. John Regional Catholic School

Free

http://www.sjrcs.org/



National Blue Ribbon and S.T.E.M, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) school offers the best Catholic school education in the area. Learn about the academic programs and state-of-the-art facility, students' accomplishments, and the Christ-centered atmosphere on campus. Over 189 years of academic excellence in Frederick County. Scholarships, grants and financial aid are available. Contact Kathy Kinsey at kkinsey@sjrcs.org or call 301-662-6722 for additional information. www.sjrcs.org

Applications will start to be accepted for the 2019-2020 school year at the Fall Open House.

School Notes

Emma Kerr
ekerr@newspost.com

The future of computer class

Carrie Michaels-Anderson, computer teacher at St. John Regional Catholic School, gets one request from students over and over: to use her three 3D printers, awarded to the school through a grant.

Snowflake ornaments, little terrarium turtles and complete animal habitats — the 3D printer and its computer program TinkerCad can seemingly do it all. Michaels-Anderson said once students get to third grade, they are able to manipulate the boxes and follow the steps on TinkerCad to design their own projects.

Her work begins even before third grade. Michaels-Anderson teaches kindergarten through eighth grade, leads the school in the Hour of Code, plans new Genius Hour opportunities, and oversees an after-school robotics league. The biggest challenge for her youngest students is transitioning from the iPad mentality to using a proper computer.

"My students come in here thinking they are giant iPads, and that's what they want to use. Well, they have to learn to use the mouse," Michaels-Anderson said. "So I do have students who struggle with that, but it's a good hand-eye coordination lesson."

She teaches kindergartners to find letters on the keyboard, how to type their names with capital letters and a space between first and last. Having taught for 17 years, Michaels-Anderson said she's seen some older students who experience a spark of interest in coding through an activity or event at school and then really take off with it.

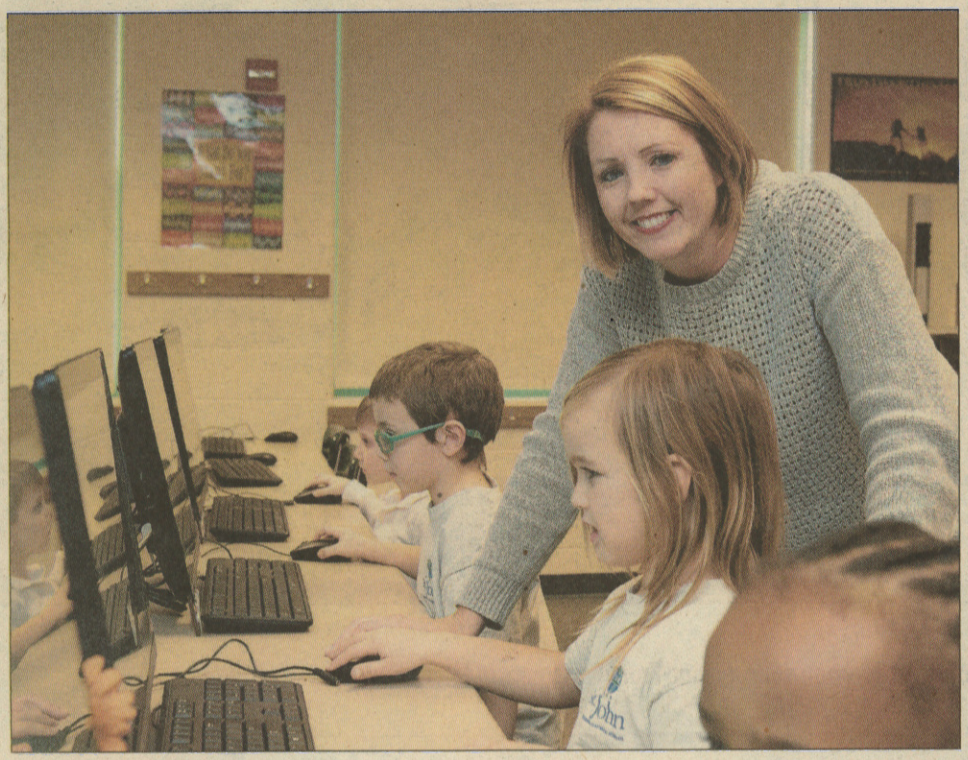
For one 3D printing project, the snowflakes that eighth-grade students design have to be personalized to them. Students typically use their names and initials.

"I had one student — she was a swimmer — and that was something that was her life," Michaels-Anderson said. "She made her snowflake with goggles around the outsides of it. I took them home and spray-painted them with Liquid Diamond, and it made them shine. I put ribbons on them, we decorated bags and I sent them home to give to their parents as an ornament."

The 3D printers are an opportunity for cross-curriculum work, and are often incorporated into other class instruction. TinkerCad, which is a free program online with activities tailored to students, calls itself "the best thing in education, since education itself." The site includes 3D Design, Electronics and Codeblocks. Students can develop simple drag-and-drop skills, or learn the basics of circuit programming.

Some of her lessons, however, go beyond the technical skills required to design printable figures or code a robot's movements. Michaels-Anderson's role as computer teacher increasingly extends beyond teaching typing skills to students who are often very digitally literate. Michaels-Anderson said she works to prepare students for the real world, as it exists online. Her very first

(See **KERR** B2)



Staff photo by Bill Green

Carrie Michaels-Anderson, computer teacher at St. John Regional Catholic School, works with kindergartners in the computer lab.

Kerr

(Continued from B1)

unit is on internet safety, and as part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the curriculum she must teach includes teaching good digital citizenship.

Over the years, she's seen more students becoming active on social media at young ages. But there's also a group of students each year who do not use any form of social media and say they never will. That's not always possible, she warns them. Michaels-Anderson said her instruction aims at giving students scenarios and complex issues they may face in their relationship to the internet for the class to explore.

"I spend time with the students talking to them about their online reputation. What they post on social media matters," Michaels-Anderson said. "I bring real-world examples, so that they can see positive things and what can happen if they make a bad decision."

Previously a second-grade teacher, Michaels-Anderson said she's enjoying the chance to work with all 500 students at each grade level as computer teacher. Michaels-Anderson teaches in a formal computer lab, and with many schools opting to do away with computer labs and instead providing students with their own devices, she said the future of computer teachers like herself is uncertain.

"Some schools in the archdiocese have done away with computer labs, and they've just taken the technology and moved it into classrooms," she said. "They built this school brand new and built a computer room, so I don't think they will ever go away with this. Our students have Chromebooks as well, but when they come to me they work on a computer station. Perhaps in the future we may — some of these schools are doing away with computer labs, so maybe they will turn it into a study hall for middle schoolers or a life skills class. We are always evolving."

Follow Emma Kerr on Twitter: @emmarkerr.

Frederick Co. agriculture-education grant winners announced

Sep 27, 2018

FREDERICK, Md. — The Frederick County (Md.) agriculture-education grant award winners were announced Sept. 14 at opening night of The Great Frederick Fair.

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development and the Agriculture Business Council established the one-time grant program to increase the vibrancy of agriculture programs available for youth in Frederick County.

"These grants will help to educate a new generation of farmers about the importance of agriculture," County Executive Jan Gardner said in a news release. "Frederick County provides food and fiber to people across Maryland. The hands-on experience these programs provide makes a lasting impact on the youth and helps to shape the next generation of agricultural leaders."

Five nonprofits will receive $1,000 to establish new or expand existing agriculture-education programs.

Programs were selected for their long-term impact on the community and preferences were given for projects that benefited youth in urban areas.

Grant proceeds were a one-time funding source made possible through the Frederick County Agriculture Viability Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

"The Agriculture Business Council was pleased with the number and the quality of the grant applications we received. We feel strongly that the winners selected and their projects will be able to give the most impact in educating youth about agriculture," Katie Albaugh, OED agriculture business development specialist, said in the release.

The award winners and projects are:

• The YMCA of Frederick County plans to build, plant and maintain a teaching garden at YMCA Camp West Mar. The campers and staff will maintain the garden and use the produce in the dining hall.

• Maryland Sheriff's Youth Ranch will purchase a greenhouse to complement the vegetable garden already on-site. The greenhouse will allow early propagation of planting materials and further the opportunity to educate the residents of the ranch about growing their own food.

• Frederick County Extension will expand its Kids Growing with Grains Program, designed to teach elementary students about grain production, uses and nutrition while doing hands-on activities. Title 1 schools are being targeted for this program.

• St. John Regional Catholic School will use grant funds to build a learning garden, positively impacting students in areas: environmental stewardship, community and social development, healthy lifestyle and academic achievement. The school plans to work with the University of Maryland Extension and Master Gardeners to design the garden, and also to help to teach lessons in conjunction with the garden.

• Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School plans to start a garden club to increase learning through hands-on experiences. The goal is to have a self-sustaining vegetable garden on school grounds and incorporate it in classroom lessons.

CONTACTOS

EL PREGONERO

ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE WASHINGTON Sirviendo a la Comunidad

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 Comunidad Inmigración Educación Parroquias Cultura Papa Francisco Cardenal Wuerl Misas

G+ Tweet

Escuela católica lanza programa "Apreciamos a nuestra comunidad hispana"

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 3:02 PM

Saint John Regional Catholic School (SJRCS) está lanzando "Apreciamos a nuestra comunidad hispana" con el fin de incrementar la matrícula de alumnos de origen hispano. SJRCS es una escuela católica nombrada Escuela de Excelencia 'Blue Ribbon' por el departamento de educación, un prestigioso honor galardonado a tan solo las 50 mejores escuelas privadas del país cada año.

Para facilitar la matricula se ha desarrollado un programa completo de becas y subsidios para estudiantes. También se ofrece un programa de idiomas que incluye la enseñanza de español básico y la educación de todos nuestros alumnos sobre la importancia y variedad de la cultura hispana en Estados Unidos.

Foto/archivo

"Estamos haciendo todo lo posible para poner la mejor educación del país al alcance de todos y mostrar nuestro aprecio por la comunidad hispana" dijo la directora Smith. "Nuestros estudiantes obtienen una puntuacion del 15% más alto en las evaluaciones nacionales sobre el conocimiento de matemáticas y lenguaje en los grados segundo a octavo, lo que nos hace una escuela de alto rendimiento y nos hizo acreedores al 'Blue Ribbon' por segunda vez".

Explicó, que además de ser una escuela 'Blue Ribbon', SJRCS también ha sido designada una escuela líder en 'STEM' (Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas) en Maryland.

En su aula 'MakerSpace' ayuda a sus alumnos a pensar críticamente, colaborar y resolver problemas. Este espacio incluye impresoras 3D y sets de 'Little Bit' para enseñar codificación informática elemental. Incluso tenemos un laboratorio de ciencias, sala de computadores, i-pads y computadoras personales para los alumnos de 7º y 8º.

Dicho centro educativo, también ha recibido la designación de Maryland 'Green School' (escuela verde) por nuestra educación sobre el medio ambiente y su conservación y ofrecemos el programa PRIDE para aquellos estudiantes que aprenden de manera diferente.

Saint John Regional Catholic School realizará su "Open House" el domingo día 28 de octubre de 1 a 3 de la tarde. Todos los padres de familia están invitados. Para mayor información pueden comunicarse con Sonia Demiray al 202-744-2948.

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El camino del discípulo es la pobreza: el discípulo es pobre, porque su riqueza es Jesús. #SantaMarta

3h

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