The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today’s youth and young adults to become tomorrow’s faith-filled leaders.

More than 40 educators from the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools spent three days attending the NCEA New Directions STREAM 3.0 Conference, learning how STREAM—Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math—plus faith, individual academic disciplines, and life can work together in PK-12th grade classroom settings. Attendees heard from world-renowned experts about STREAM in Catholic Schools, were educated with real-world STREAM exhibits at a Student Showcase, and participated in a variety of STREAM-related activities in breakout sessions. Attendance at this conference allowed our Diocesan teachers and principals to learn how STREAM provides a challenging learning environment while building 21st-century competencies needed for success based on the 4Cs of critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. They will now take back what they learned to their individual schools, train their fellow educators, and plan to incorporate their lessons into their classrooms during the 2019-20 school year.

Eighteen students at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre were recognized recently for their accomplishment in the National Spanish Examinations, administered by the National Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The exams measure performance and achievement of the students. Bronze medal winners were Therese Amerise, Maria Egidio, Nicholas Pikul, and Brandyn Rivas. Fourteen students won medals on the honors level. Pictured, left to right, first row, are Gabrielle Morgan, Olivia Lewis, Therese Amerise, Maria Egidio, Marissa Jason. Second row: Lauren Kozicki, Emily Dougherty, Rose Hayward, Olivia Pavico, Olivia Roth, Mariel Schramm. Third row: Mr. John Barno, Spanish teacher and department chairperson; Jack Gallis, Brandyn Rivas, Colin Wills, Maxwell Rosen, Alexander Hajkowski, Sean Boland, Nicholas Pikul, Mr. Michael Reese, principal; Dr. Richard Barno, Spanish teacher.

The fifth grade class from Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg attended the 27th annual Fairy Tale Mock Trials presented by the Monroe County Bar Association at the local courthouse. This year’s trial was “Commonwealth vs. Prospector Pete,” a character based on Disney-Pixar’s Toy Story, and is performed to give students a better understanding of how the court system works.
Jack Seltzer, a Kindergarten student at Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston, authored, illustrated and “published” his first book. Entitled “Battling for the Crown of the Champion,” it is a six-chapter book about Pokémon characters, some of which are Jack’s originals.


Parents, grandparents, family and friends filled the auditorium at Epiphany School in Sayre to see 23 children graduate the school’s Pre-K–4 Program. Before the ceremony, the guests were treated to the students reciting poems and singing songs before Father Andrew presented the graduates with their diplomas.

Saint Jude School in Mountain Top recently held an intergenerational BINGO event to celebrate those who love their students most, grandparents! Grandmas and Grandpas helped little ones find called numbers and enjoyed a snack provided by the school’s Parent Teacher Guild as the games went on. Grandparents Mary and Steve McGinnis pose with their grandchildren Sarah and Steven Rowlands after playing another exciting game of BINGO.

Prior to the eighth grade graduation liturgy at Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre, students whose family members also graduated from Saint Nicholas/ Saint Mary School, Saint Nicholas High School, or Saint Mary High School were honored as Legacy Families. Pictured are Marisue Sack (SNSM ’81) and son Owen; Madeline Nguyen and father Peter Nguyen (SNSM ’87); Nicholas Gallo (SNSM ’96) and his son Antonio.

Pre-Kindergarten students at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore had the opportunity to see, touch, and hear a violin while they were working on the letter “V” in class.
The Class of 2019 from Holy Cross High School in Dunmore pause during graduation activities to pose with family members who also graduated from a Diocese of Scranton high school. Pictured are: Dominic and Elizabeth Arbie, with their mother, Clare Arbie, Bishop Hannan Class of 1983 and grandmother, Jane Kelly, Saint John’s High School; Mary Margaret Arcuri, with her mother, Colleen Lavelle Arcuri, Bishop Hannan Class of 1981; Olivia Blosky, with her mother, Beth Follweiler Bloskey, Bishop Hannan Class of 1989; L. Matthias Boles, with his father, Patrick Boles, Bishop Hannan Class of 1980; Gianna Calciano, with her mother, Lisa Sabia-Calciano, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1986; Annabelle and Taylor Callis, with their mother, Colle Edmondson Jones, Bishop Hannan Class of 1981; Hannah Carr, with her mother, Maurya Mellody Carr, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1993; William P. Craig, with his father, William R Craig Sr., Saint John the Evangelist Class of 1975; Matthew Dowdell, with his father, William Dowdell, Bishop Klonowski Class of 1980; Magan Gashi, with her mother, Toni Ezman-Gashi, Sacred Heart High School Class of 1989; Marla Gambucci, with her father, Foster Gambucci, Bishop O’Hara Class 1994; Meghan Keenan, with her father, John Keenan, Bishop Hannan 1993, and grandparents, Paula & Jack Keenan, Saint Patrick’s High School, Class of 1966; Kalley Kovaleski, with mother, Ellen Gilhooley Kovaleski, Seton Catholic Class of 1981; Caroline Kranick with parents, Robert Kranick and Colleen Hogan Kranick, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1987; Olivia Krupski, with father, Timothy G. Krupski, Bishop Hannan Class of 1986; Joseph Liuzzo, with father, Joseph Liuzzo, Sacred Heart; Kaylee Magda, with father, Robert Magda, Bishop Hannan Class of 1987; Giulia Maiolatesi, with her parents, Roseann Rupp Maiolatesi, Sacred Heart Class of 1983, and Sal Maiolatesi, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1989; Julia Mancuso, with her parents, Frank Mancuso, Sacred Heart 1989, and Greg Mancuso, Sacred Heart 1987, and grandmother, Nancy Provanzono, Cathedral High School Class of 1964; Thomas Montefour, with his parents, Bernadette A. Montefour, Sacred Heart Class of 1986, and Timothy Montefour, Bishop Hafey Class of 1981; Lucia Nardelli, with her mother, Maria DeNaples Nardelli, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1986; Jacob Rasimovich, with his mother, Ellen Rasimovich, Bishop Hannan Class of 1986; Gianna Sacchetti, with her mother, Deborah Aigeldinger Sacchetti, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1986; Carl J. Schuster, with his mother, Theresa Schuster, Bishop Hannan Class of 1987; Noah Somers, with his father, Richard Somers Jr., Bishop Hannan Class of 1984; Kristen Swierczek, with her father, Michael Swierczek, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1979; Karli Tolerico, with her mother, Karen Tolerico, Sacred Heart High School Class of 1993; Kirsten VanLouvender, with her father, Craig VanLouvender, Bishop Hannan Class of 1989 and grandmother, Margaret VanLouvender, South Catholic High School Class of 1964; Joshua and Justin Walker, with their father, Richard Walker, Bishop Hannan Class of 1986; Colin Walsh, with his father, Michael Walsh, Bishop Hannan Class of 1985, and grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Walsh, South Catholic High School; Olivia Zehel, with her father, Shawn Zehel, Bishop O’Hara Class of 1985; Haley McElroy, with her uncle, Edward Kratz, Saint Rose High School Class of 1964; and Brian Mariotti, with his father, Robert Mariotti, Bishop Hannan High School.

Holy Rosary School in Duryea recently held its eighth grade commencement liturgy and graduation celebration. Pictured are Mrs. Debbie Brady (teacher), Ashley Abplanalp, Adina De Stefano, Gisele Falzone, Scheland, Hailey Sebastian, Jessica Ostrowski, Mrs. Melissa Skutack (principal), Hailey Halagarda, Gloria Tabone, Carsyn Cole, Olivia DeSena, Paige Kroptavich, Sarah Lyons, Paige Skibitsky, Karli Mahasky, Henry Rosen, Ethan Licari, Kyle Skutack, Louis Lussi, Andrew Bender, and Dino DiMauro.

Caroline Murray and Annie Johnson, eighth-graders at Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, are excited about graduation activities as they reminisce about their favorite moments as OLP students.

It’s Build Time! The first grade class at Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport had a chance to be creative when working with LEGOs.