

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



May 2026

Crusader Connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❑ Monday, May 4 - Friday, April 8: Teacher Appreciation Week!
- ❑ Monday, May 4: Astronaut visit for "May the fourth be with you!"
- ❑ Thursday, May 7: Spring Band Concert (in school @ 1:20), 6pm in the evening
- ❑ Friday, May 8: Band trip to Kings Dominion
- ❑ Tuesday, May 12: HSA In-Person Meeting, 6pm
- ❑ Wednesday, May 13: SOMD Blue Crabs Game (Grades 1-8)
- ❑ Friday, May 22: Early Dismissal
- ❑ Monday, May 25: Memorial Day, No School
- ❑ Thursday, May 28: 8th Grade Graduation at 4:30pm
- ❑ Friday, June 5: PK Promotion at 10:00am
- ❑ Wednesday, June 10: Last day of school/Early Dismissal with 10:30 am Mass

SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE

Please note: The last day of school for students has been changed to Wednesday, June 10. It is a half day, and we will celebrate our end of the year Mass at 10:30 am. Monday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 9 will be full days of school, as originally scheduled.



May Crowning is a traditional Catholic devotion held in May, honoring the Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven by placing a crown of flowers on her statue. On Friday, May 1, Father Andrew White students held a procession and offered flowers and a special crown at our May Crowning Ceremony.

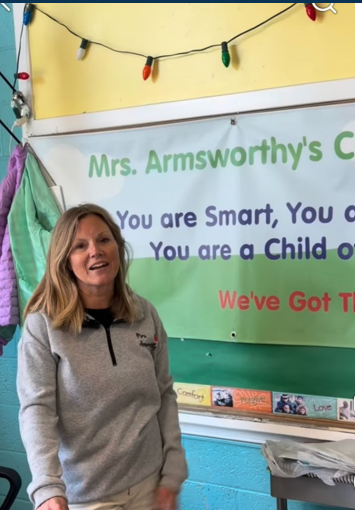


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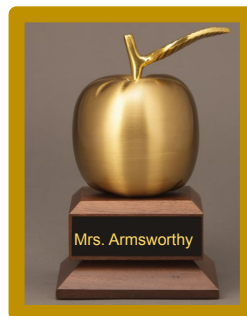
Catholic Standard

Catholic school teachers for providing a quality academic and faith-filled education for their children, the Donahues through their foundation have established this award in five dioceses around the country.

Here are the 10 Golden Apple Award winning teachers for 2026 from Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington:

- **Shannon Armsworthy**, a fourth grade teacher at Father Andrew White, S.J. School in Leonardtown, Maryland;
- **Mary Beth Conte**, a Spanish and social studies teacher at the Cardinal Hickey Academy in Owings, Maryland;
- **Nicci Falcone**, a second grade teacher at Holy Cross School in Garrett Park, Maryland;

We are **proud** to announce that Mrs. Shannon Armsworthy, fourth grade teacher, is a recipient of the Archdiocese of Washington **Golden Apple Award**.



Mrs. Armsworthy is a teacher who has high expectations for her students and helps them to realize those expectations! She has a strong Catholic faith and wants each child in her classroom to know they are a valued child of God. She creates a classroom culture of caring and is always ready to assist those at Father Andrew White School as well as the community at large.

Click below to read the full article about this year's FAW Golden Apple Winner!

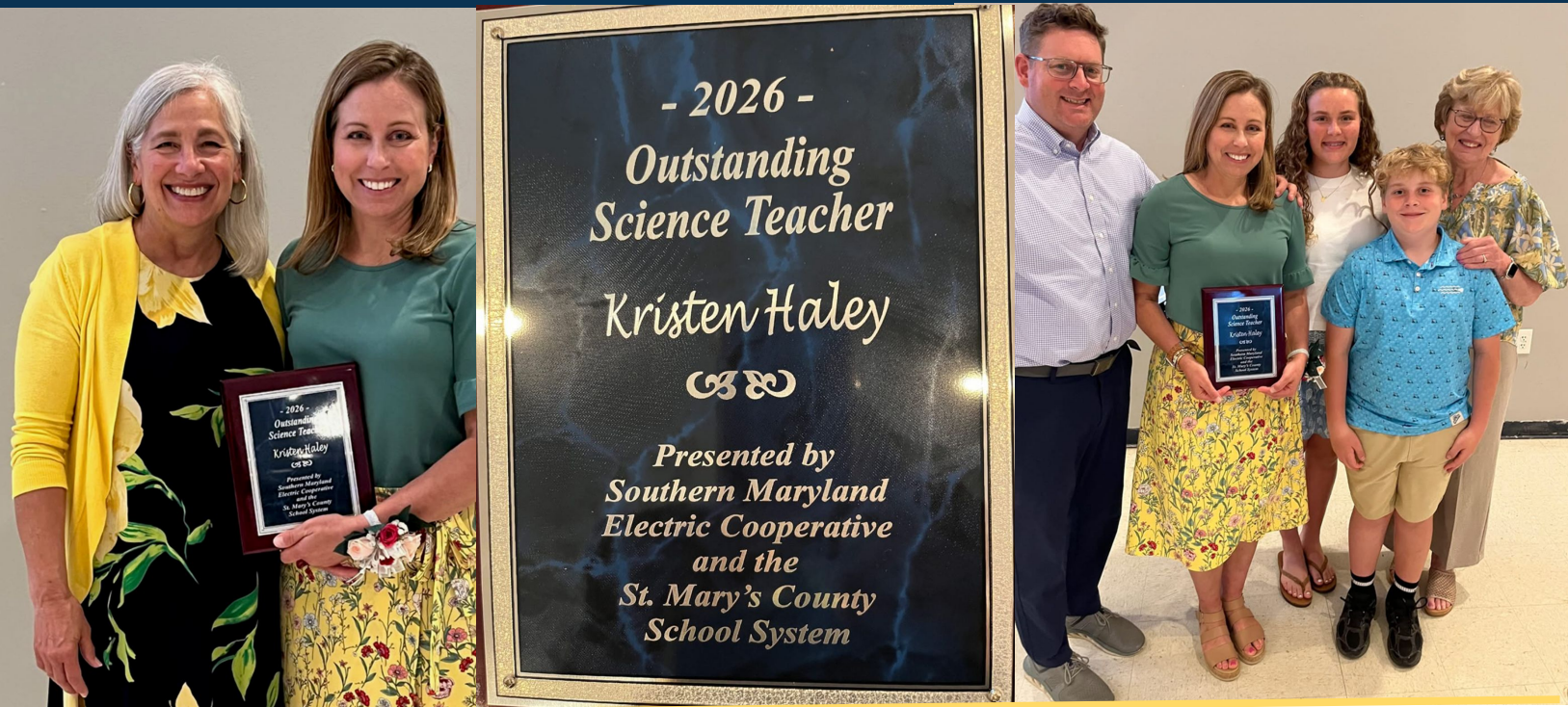
<https://www.cathstan.org/local/for-gold-en-apple-teacher-shannon-armsworthy-at-father-andrew-white-school-teaching-is-as-natural-as-breathing>

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May 2026

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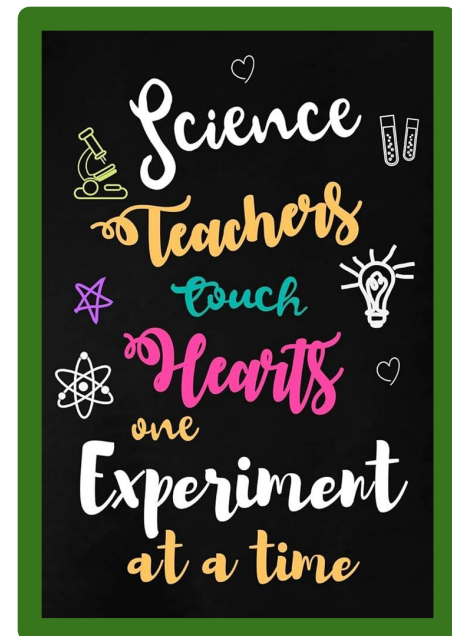
We are proud to announce that Mrs. Kristen Haley, our elementary and middle school science teacher, is the recipient of a 2026 SMECO Outstanding Science Teacher Award for St. Mary's County.



Mrs. Haley is a teacher who designs amazing classroom experiences for her students! She makes learning accessible for all, provides many hands-on learning activities, has high expectations and provides the support needed for students to reach those goals. She demonstrates kindness and compassion to all of her students and wants them to know that she desires that they always do their best, and is willing to help students achieve excellence.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Kristen Haley as a SMECO Outstanding Science Teacher Recipient!

We are so proud of her!!



FATHER ANDREW WHITE



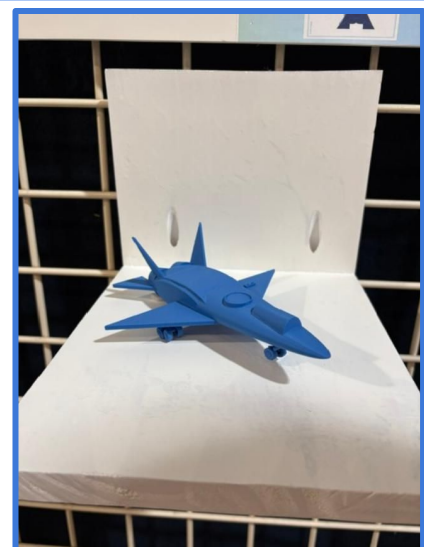
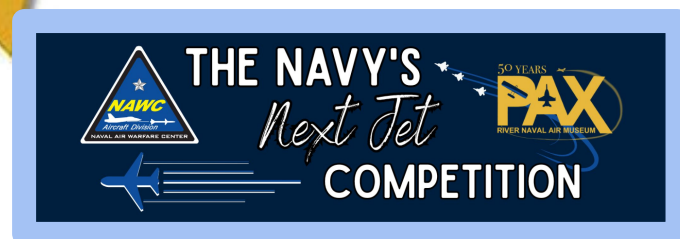
Crusader Connections

May 2026

History Fair Award winners: Congratulations to 8th-grade students **Madeline (1st place)** and **Molly (2nd place)** for their success at the **St. Mary's County History Day** contest on April 18th. The girls excelled in their exploration of this year's theme, "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform."

Madeline won an award at the Maryland History Day state contest on May 2nd!

Katherine, Juliette, and Poppy have been named the **second-place winner** in the Middle School category of this year's **Navy's Next Jet Competition!** The competition was fierce this year, with many impressive entries from all Southern Maryland Tri-county public, private, and homeschool students. The "The Echo-E" stood out to our judges, as it demonstrated the students' innovative thinking.



FATHER ANDREW WHITE



May 2026

Crusader Connections



Our FAW students completed over **600 cards** of encouragement to be included in packets with homemade rosaries for military service members! We are so **proud** of our students and their support for those who so selflessly serve in our armed forces!



SMECO
Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

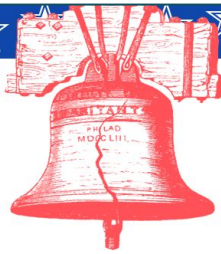


MATHCOUNTS
SPONSORED BY SMECO



Fourth graders
came in fourth
place for the
SMECO
Math Team
Competition.



Bella placed first in the MD state competition for her ELKS lodge essay.



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
*Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
The United States of America*

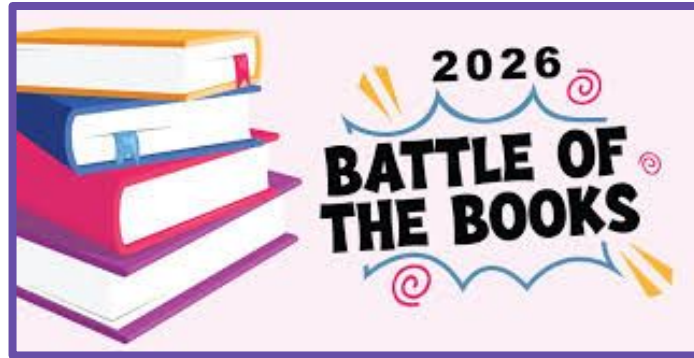
THEME:
“What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?”

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



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May 2026



Fifth graders participated in the “**Battle of the Books**” competition! “Castle’s Crew” came in **second place** out of 26 teams! They all enjoyed the experience!!



THANK YOU!
Dr. Schneider & Mrs. Breedlove
for coaching our students!





WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

*Think before you act: buy a bracelet for
a daily reminder!*

MAY 5-8



*Hosted by the National Junior Honor
Society. All profits will be donated to the
St. Mary's County Chapter of Sleep in
Heavenly Peace Organization*

**\$2 PER
BRACELET**

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May 2026

A
Great
Big
Thank you



A huge thank you to **Mrs. Paulina Bellezza and the Auction & Social committee** for all of their hard work to make our FAW social such a fun event! Every detail was accounted for from the amazing venue and food, the beautiful decor, the guests in their themed attire and the many, many wonderful items that were auctioned. Many faculty members and sponsors were in attendance!! Thank you to ALL of our sponsors for their support of our Catholic school!



FATHER ANDREW WHITE



May 2026

Crusader Connections

HSA
Home & School Association

Parents Faculty Staff

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Communications Liaison

OPEN HSA MEETING

HSA In - Person Meeting
May 12, 2026
6:00 PM

E-mail: faw.hsa.board@gmail.com

Descriptions

President: Preside over the HSA meetings, serve as a member of the School Advisory Board; conduct monthly status meeting with the principal; 1 yr term

Vice President: Perform the duties of the president in the absence of the President; 1 yr term

Secretary: Keep the minutes of all meetings, schedule HSA meetings, and prepare/send any correspondence as required

Treasurer: Prepare an annual budget, receive monthly HAS reports from the school bookkeeper, and prepare financial reports and provide financial status updates at HSA board meetings; 2 yr term

Communications Liaison: Coordinate and execute marketing communications, including social media, for all association events and all school fundraising; 2 yr term

Member at Large (2): Assist with various HSA events and support the HSA Board officers; 2 yr term

Faculty Liaison: Provide insight and updates on the school sponsored events to the HSA and faculty.

All are invited to attend to hear updated school event information.

HSA Updates



FATHER ANDREW WHITE



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Father Andrew White S.J. School Uniforms

As you prepare for the 26-27 school year, we want to inform you that we will return to the uniform policy that states **skirts must touch the top of the kneecap; shorts must be fingertip length.**



Lands End has informed us that in June, there will be a 30% off promotion sale.

<https://www.landsend.com/shop/school-uniform/S-ytp>

Please ensure that you order a uniform of the proper length, that will be in compliance for the entire school year. Students with uniforms that are not in compliance with this policy will be provided a new uniform at school and the student FACTS account will be billed accordingly.



Thank you for your cooperation.

2026 - 2027 School Year Update!

Please note: Picture Day is scheduled for Friday, October 16. This year, **all students will wear their school uniform** for his or her yearbook photo. Should there be a significant number of students that would like a photo in regular clothing, we will schedule an additional photo opportunity in the spring.



MIDDLE SCHOOL



We are looking for volunteers to assist us with our Middle School Electives program which is a wonderful enrichment for our middle school student experience. The commitment is a weekly one hour commitment, currently on Wednesdays from 10:41 - 11:24, for a total of nine weeks. Presenters can offer an elective for one quarter or up to four quarters.

We need 30-40 presenters to make this program a success.

Previous offerings involve agriculture, automotive, architecture, art, board games, chess, cooking, etiquette, exercise, judicial system, medicine, music, photography, personal finance, science, sewing crafts, Spanish, sports, etc. If there is a hobby or an area that you would be able to share with our students, we would be most appreciative.

Submit your interest [here](#).

Point of Contact: Mrs. Breedlove at: office@fatherandrewwhite.org

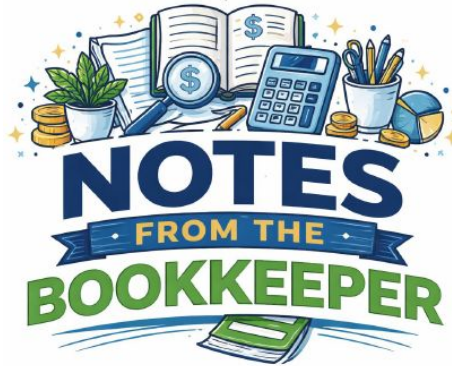
Thank you for your consideration!



Santa Shop Coordinator/Co-Coordinator Opportunity

Do you love to see children experience the joy of giving? If so, you might want to lead the next Santa Shop! We are looking for someone to be our Santa Shop Coordinator this December 2026. The coordinator would be responsible for acquiring approximately 2,500 gifts for students to purchase for parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and pets.

The coordinator would also count and tally the money control envelopes before the event and manage approximately 20 volunteers who love to help with gift selecting and wrapping the day of the event. The prior coordinator is willing to meet to pass along some tips and tricks. If interested, contact Mrs. Greer at: lindagreer@gmail.com



Pastoral Verification Forms were due May 1. If you are requesting the Active Catholic Parishioner tuition rate but have not submitted it to your pastor, you may still submit it before June 30 for a reduced grant of \$500 per student.

This year, each family was required to earn \$100 in profit through the RaiseRight gift card fundraising program. If you did not earn the required minimum, your FACTS account will be billed May 19. If you have earned a profit through the program, you will receive a statement showing your profit.

Any RaiseRight purchases you make now will apply to the 2026-2027 requirement. All families will once again be required to earn \$100 in profit through the program.

Please note!

Notices of financial aid awards from the Archdiocese of Washington were scheduled for release mid to late April. For those who applied for financial aid and did not receive assistance from the ADW, applications will be further reviewed by the FAW scholarship committee and notices will be sent out by mid-June.

NOTES FROM NURSE ROSE



Recently, I had the honor of speaking with some of our students about health and our changing bodies. Most of it was a review of “things they already knew” but often those are just the things that we need to be reminded of.



I myself had been feeling under the weather, and after some self assessment I realized that I had been neglecting some key elements of staying healthy – namely proper sleep, balanced nutrition, and stress management. Managing stress often ties in with other ways of staying healthy, such as how walking your dog gives you time with a furry friend and provides exercise, fresh air and sunshine. The topic of mental health was something that came up a lot when speaking with middle school, and it absolutely has a huge impact on our overall health, not just during puberty but throughout our lives. There are many things that are beyond our control (our genes, hormones, other people), and sometimes we need help (medication, therapy), but the one thing we have the most control over is our thoughts. Thoughts may pop into our heads out of nowhere, but once they’re there, we have the power of how to respond. This response and what we believe can make all the difference, which has been shown through many studies on the placebo effect. God hears our thoughts. This can be both comforting and concerning, (especially if we’re feeling guilty about something); but if we focus on remembering that God knows all and is always with us, we can be comforted to know that we are never alone, and we have the power within us to get through this ever changing world.

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



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FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL

PAINT THE SPIRIT ROCK



SHOW YOUR
SCHOOL SPIRIT!

RENT THE SPIRIT ROCK FOR
BIRTHDAYS, SPECIAL OCCASIONS,
SCHOOL EVENTS, INSPIRATION,
CLASS SPIRIT, ETC!

SIGN UP ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE
TO MAKE A RESERVATION!

\$20

Special Occasions

The **Spirit Rock** is available for those who would like to decorate it for their child's birthday or other special occasion! Use the following link to sign up:

<https://fatherandrewwhite.org/spirit-rock/>

SUMMER EnRiChment



VCA Office: 301-862-1478

Adaptive Swim Lessons

SUMMER 2026

Our Service

Specially designed swim instruction for kids and adults with special needs.

Description

We will provide specialized instruction to meet the needs of the individual. Swim lessons will focus on water safety and basic swimming principles. Lessons will be 30 minutes long, with flexible scheduling to meet your needs. Sessions will be designed with consideration of what the individual needs, either as one-on-one or groups of 3 to 4. There will be a meet and greet with the instructor(s) in the Wildewood community lodge on 5/16 at 8-9am and 5/17 at 4-5pm Registering for adaptive lessons is a two step process, please see the instructions below.

WILDEWOOD COMMUNITY POOL

23060 Wildewood Dr, California, MD 20619

REGISTER NOW!

https://ww-link.com/?page_id=7160
(On Wildewood pool website)

when registering please fill out this google form or scan the QR code:



FATHER ANDREW WHITE



Crusader Connections

May 2026

School
Calendar with
HSA Events



Father Andrew White, S.J. School
LEADERSHIP ✦ FAITH ✦ ACADEMICS

2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August	26	1st Day of School (K-8) - 12:30 Dismissal
	29	12:30 Early Dismissal - Professional Day
September	1	No School - Labor Day
	2	Pre-K Starts
	18	12:30 Early Dismissal
	19	No School - St. Mary's County Fair
	22	No School - Professional Day
October	17	Crusader Cup
	18	Trunk or Treat
	23	12:30 Early Dismissal
	24	No School - Collaboration Day
	30	End of the 1 st Quarter
November	6	12:30 Early Dismissal
	7	No School
	21	Thanksgiving Luncheon & Brown Bag Auction
	26-28	No School - Thanksgiving Break
December	1	Classes Resume
	5	Santa Shop
	19	Santa's Cinema - Class Christmas Party
	19	12:30 Early Dismissal - Christmas Break Begins
	22-31	No School - Christmas Break
January	1-4	No School - New Year's Day
	5	Classes Resume
	16	12:30 Early Dismissal
	19	No School - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
	22	End of 2nd Quarter
	25-31	Catholic Schools Week
	31	Family Bingo
February	13	No School - Professional Day
	16	No School - Presidents' Day
March	6	12:30 Early Dismissal
	9	No School - Collaboration Day
	21	"Shamrock Shuffle" Fun Run
	30	End of the 3 rd Quarter
April	2	12:30 Early Dismissal - Holy Thursday
	3-12	No School - Easter Break
	13	Classes Resume
	24	Spring Social and Auction
May	22	12:30 Early Dismissal
	25	No School - Memorial Day
June	10	12:30 Early Dismissal - End of 4th Quarter - Last Day of School
	11	12:30 Early Dismissal
	12	12:30 Early Dismissal

All dates are subject to change. Events in blue signify HSA sponsored events.