

NEWS



2026

September at a Glance

Events and Their Meaning

Race for Grace 5K

The Distinctive Value of Classical Catholic Education

SEPTEMBER - EDITION

Oratory Academy



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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Faith • Knowledge • Service • Fellowship

September brings meaningful opportunities for students, families, and faculty to deepen their faith, broaden their knowledge, and strengthen their bonds as a Catholic school community. Each observance supports our commitment to intellectual growth, spiritual formation, service, and fellowship.



Septiembre ofrece valiosas oportunidades para que estudiantes, familias y personal docente profundicen su fe, amplíen sus conocimientos y fortalezcan sus vínculos como comunidad escolar católica. Cada actividad reafirma nuestro compromiso con el crecimiento intelectual, la formación espiritual, el servicio y la fraternidad.

September at a Glance

September Events

Important dates for our school community

DATE	EVENT
September 4	No School — Diocesan In-Service
September 7	No School — Labor Day
September 9	Christmas Play Auditions for Grades 4–5
September 10	Christmas Play Auditions for Grades 6–8
September 11	Missa — Latin Mass
September 14–16	Teaching Safety, Lesson 5 — Grades K–8
September 14, 21 & 28	Junior Legion of Mary — Grades 4–8; 3:50–4:50 p.m.
September 16	Women’s Oratory Prayer Group
September 18	Misa — Spanish Mass
September 18	Race for Grace 5K Packet Pickup — 6:00–9:00 p.m., at school
September 19	Race for Grace 5K — 7:30 a.m. Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Hike and Bike Trail 300 W. Hall Acres Road, Pharr, Texas 78577
September 22–24	NWEA Benchmark — Grades K–8
September 25	Mass — English Mass
September 26	First Holy Communion — Grade 3

September 22–24 — NWEA Benchmark Testing: Grades K–8

Students in grades K–8 will complete the NWEA Benchmark assessment to measure academic growth and help teachers identify individual strengths and areas needing additional support. To help students perform at their best, please ensure they go to bed early, eat a nutritious breakfast, and arrive at school on time each testing day. Your support is essential in helping every child begin the assessment rested, focused, and confident.

September at a Glance

September Events

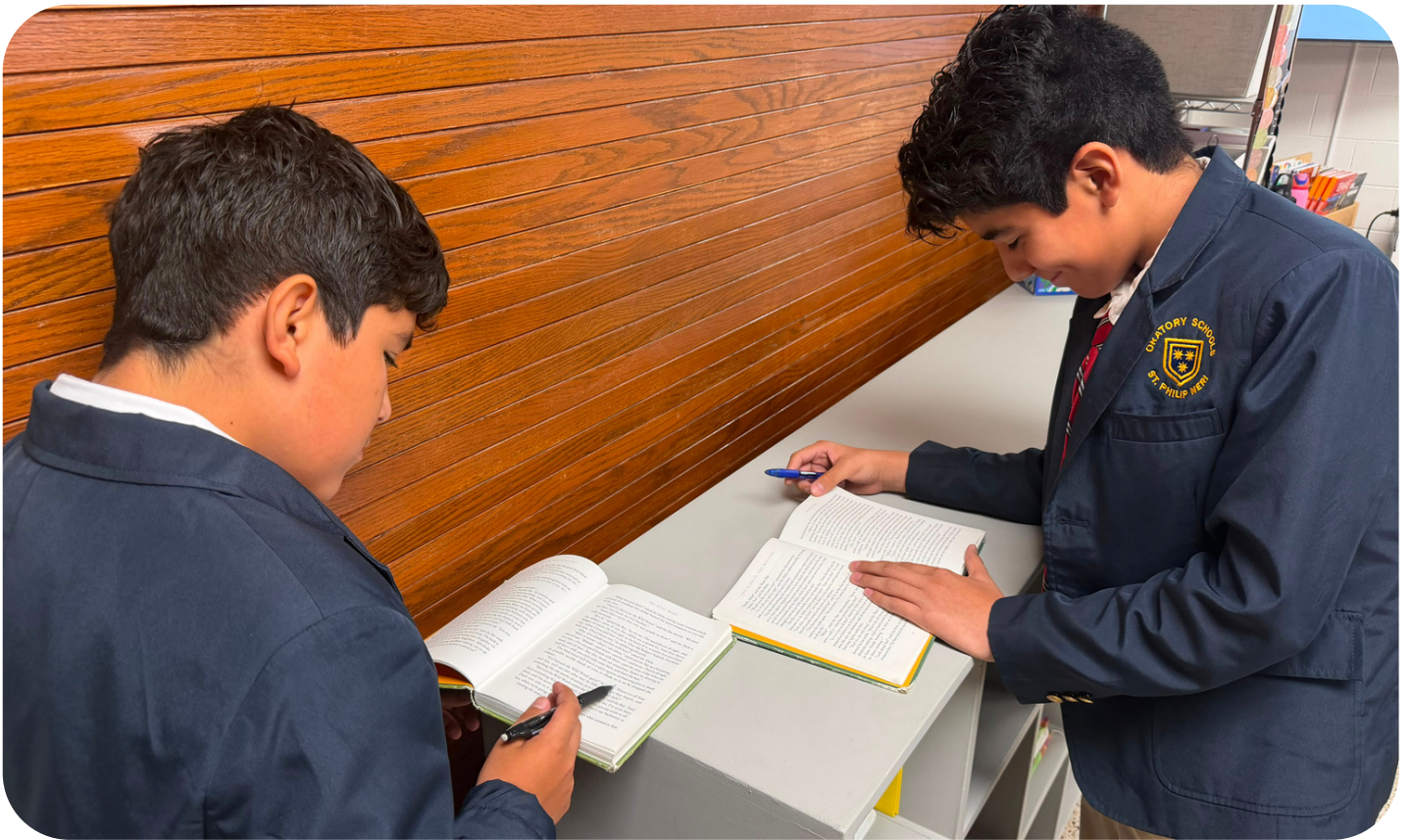
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Evaluación NWEA: Grados K–8



22–24 de septiembre

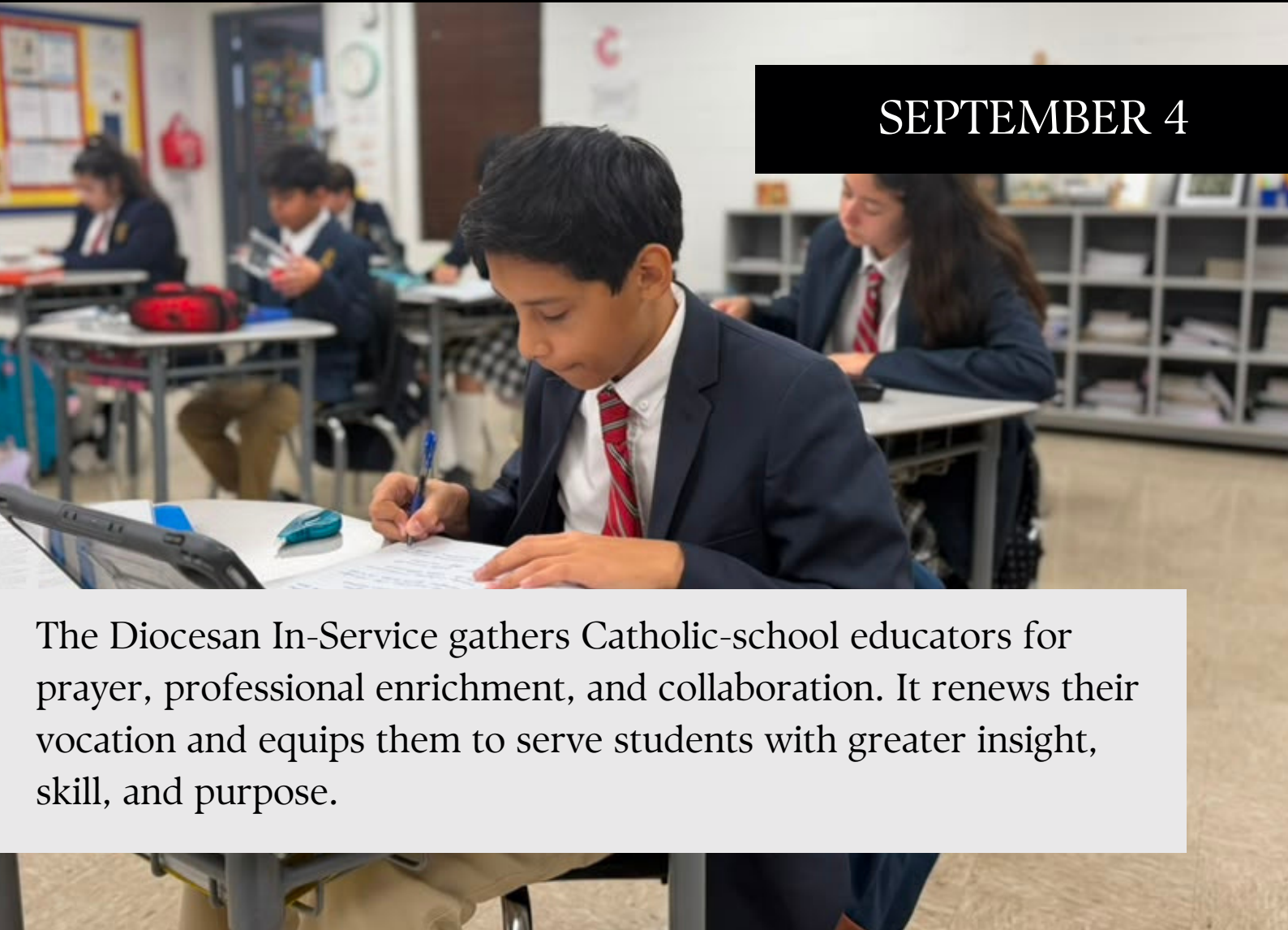
Los estudiantes de K–8 presentarán la evaluación NWEA para medir su progreso académico y ayudar a los maestros a identificar sus fortalezas y las áreas que requieren apoyo adicional. Para que puedan dar lo mejor de sí, asegúrense de que duerman temprano, desayunen nutritivamente y lleguen puntualmente a la escuela durante los días de evaluación. Su apoyo es esencial para que cada estudiante comience descansado, concentrado y seguro de sí mismo.



Events and Their Meaning

Diocesan In-Service (No School)

SEPTEMBER 4



The Diocesan In-Service gathers Catholic-school educators for prayer, professional enrichment, and collaboration. It renews their vocation and equips them to serve students with greater insight, skill, and purpose.

La capacitación diocesana reúne a los educadores de las escuelas católicas para orar, enriquecerse profesionalmente y colaborar. Esta jornada renueva su vocación y los prepara para servir a los estudiantes con mayor conocimiento, destreza y propósito.

SERVICE PIN



RECOGNITION

During the gathering, the diocese honors educators who have reached significant milestones of service. These pins acknowledge their perseverance, experience, and faithful contributions to Catholic education.

MILESTONE	HONOREE(S)
5 Years	Mrs. Cristina Torres
10 Years	Mr. Walter Berrios; Mrs. Consuelo Gomez
15 Years	Mrs. Justa Laura Garza
20 Years	Rev. Juan Ortiz, C.O.; Mrs. Sylvia Beatriz Diaz
30 Years	Mrs. Maricela Izkra Diaz
35 Years	Mrs. Esther Aguirre

We gratefully celebrate their professional excellence and lasting influence on generations of students, families, and colleagues.

RECONOCIMIENTO

con pines de servicio



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5 Years	Mrs. Cristina Torres
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35 Years	Mrs. Esther Aguirre

Durante esta reunión, la diócesis honra a los educadores que han alcanzado importantes aniversarios de servicio. Estos pines reconocen su perseverancia, experiencia y fiel contribución a la educación católica.

Celebramos con gratitud su excelencia profesional y la huella perdurable que han dejado en generaciones de estudiantes, familias y compañeros de trabajo.

Teaching Safety, Lesson 5 (Grades K–8)

As part of the Diocese of Brownsville's Safe Environment Program, Religion teachers will present age-appropriate instruction about personal boundaries, recognizing unsafe situations, and seeking help from a trusted adult. The lessons affirm each child's God-given dignity and support a culture of safety, respect, and care.

SEPTEMBER 14–16

Como parte del Programa de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis de Brownsville, los maestros de Religión impartirán enseñanzas apropiadas para cada edad sobre los límites personales, la identificación de situaciones inseguras y la importancia de pedir ayuda a un adulto de confianza. Estas lecciones afirman la dignidad que Dios ha concedido a cada niño y promueven una cultura de seguridad, respeto y cuidado.



Junior Legion of Mary

September 14, 21 & 28



The Junior Legion of Mary leads students closer to Christ through devotion to the Blessed Mother. Prayer, fellowship, and charitable service help participants cultivate spiritual discipline, compassion, humility, and generosity.

Time: 3:50–4:50 p.m.

Grades 4–5: Director — Mrs. D. Busateri

Spiritual Director: Rev. Jose E. Losoya, C.O.

Secretary: Alma Salinas

Grades 6–8: Director — Mrs. M. Balandrano

Spiritual Director: Rev. Sebastián Caballero, C.O.

Secretary: Izkra Díaz

La Legión Juvenil de María acerca a los estudiantes a Cristo mediante la devoción a la Santísima Virgen. La oración, la convivencia y el servicio caritativo ayudan a sus integrantes a cultivar disciplina espiritual, compasión, humildad y generosidad.

Horario: 3:50–4:50 p. m.

Grados 4–5: Directora — Sra. D. Busateri

Director Espiritual. Rev. Sebastián Caballero, C.O.

Secretaria: Izkra Díaz

Grados 6–8: Directora — Sra. M. Balandrano

Director espiritual: Rev. Jose E. Losoya, C.O.

Secretaria: Alma Salinas



Race Packet Pickup

September 18

Registered participants may collect their race packets and event materials at Oratory Academy in preparation for the Race for Grace 5K.

Time: 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Location: Oratory Academy



Entrega de paquetes de la carrera

Los participantes inscritos podrán recoger sus paquetes y materiales en Oratory Academy como preparación para la carrera Race for Grace 5K.

Horario: 6:00–9:00 p. m.

Lugar: Oratory Academy

Race for Grace 5K

Promoted by the Little Oratory, the Race for Grace 5K supports the Oratory Academy Scholarship Fund. Registrations, sponsorships, and donations help extend the gift of Catholic education to families requiring financial assistance.

September 19



Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Hike and Bike Trail

Address: 300 W. Hall Acres Road, Pharr, Texas 78577

The participation of students, parents, faculty, alumni, and friends is vital to the success of this initiative. Together, we can enjoy a morning of wellness and fellowship while advancing a mission of generosity and educational opportunity.

Race for Grace 5K

Promovida por el Little Oratory, la carrera Race for Grace 5K beneficia al Fondo de Becas de Oratory Academy. Las inscripciones, los patrocinios y los donativos ayudan a extender el don de la educación católica a las familias que necesitan apoyo económico.

September 19



Hora: 7:30 a. m.

Lugar: Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Hike and Bike Trail

Dirección: 300 W. Hall Acres Road, Pharr, Texas 78577

La participación de estudiantes, padres de familia, docentes, exalumnos y amigos es esencial para el éxito de esta iniciativa. Juntos podremos disfrutar una mañana de bienestar y convivencia mientras impulsamos una misión de generosidad y oportunidades educativas.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

GRADE 3

September 26



Our third-grade students will receive Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. We rejoice with them and their families and accompany them in prayer as they enter more deeply into the sacramental life of the Church.

Nuestros estudiantes de tercer grado recibirán por primera vez a Jesucristo en la Sagrada Eucaristía. Nos alegramos con ellos y sus familias, y los acompañamos con nuestras oraciones mientras profundizan en la vida sacramental de la Iglesia.

THE DISTINCTIVE VALUE OF CLASSICAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Classical Catholic education aims beyond the acquisition of information: it cultivates wisdom, eloquence, virtue, and discernment. Through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, students learn to reason carefully, communicate effectively, appreciate humanity's intellectual inheritance, and view every discipline through the light of faith.



A MAXIM FROM ST. PHILIP NERI

“Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and helps us persevere in a good life.”

— St. Philip Neri

May the joyful spirit of St. Philip Neri inspire us to enter September with attentive minds, generous hearts, and a sincere desire to serve God and one another.

El valor distintivo de la educación clásica católica

La educación clásica católica trasciende la simple adquisición de información: cultiva la sabiduría, la elocuencia, la virtud y el discernimiento. Mediante la búsqueda de la verdad, la bondad y la belleza, los estudiantes aprenden a razonar cuidadosamente, expresarse con eficacia, apreciar el legado intelectual de la humanidad y contemplar cada disciplina a la luz de la fe.

Una máxima de San Felipe Neri :



«La alegría fortalece el corazón y nos ayuda a perseverar en una vida buena».
— San Felipe Neri

Que el espíritu alegre de san Felipe Neri nos inspire a comenzar septiembre con mentes atentas, corazones generosos y un sincero deseo de servir a Dios y a los demás.





Oratory News

VISION

Every Oratory student believes the Gospel message and lives it by making a difference in the world, as each student journeys to his/her ultimate end, heaven.

MISSION

The mission of the Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School System is to promote the formation of Christian character, Catholic lay leadership, Christian fellowship and community service by integrating the Gospel message with a liberal arts educational program in the spirit of joy of St. Philip Neri.

MOTTO

EX UMBRIS ET IMAGINIBUS AD LUCEM

From the Shadows and Darkness Into the Light

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH : FAITH

Believing in God and all He has revealed..

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