



To: All SES Families
From: Sister Shaun
Re: Federal Grant

In late October, I was informed by our **Bucks County Intermediate Unit** (BCIU) that the two Catholic Schools in Bensalem are the recipients of a **very large amount of federal dollars**. This money is funded through an act called "**Title IIA**"; **it was anticipated that this act would be left out of the 2017-2018 budget but it survived the cut! However, there is one large and challenging requirement!** The money can be used -only- for **professional development of teachers!**

In these ensuing weeks, I have been investigating how I might be able to best utilize a significant amount of money in the most equitable way for teachers and therefore, for students and their families. As with other grants, this money must be used during the current school year and any money not used is lost to SES.

Therefore, **here is where I am at present:**

1. Our Christmas break will extend through Wednesday, January 3. **School will resume on Thursday, January 4 [one day later than is on the Projected Calendar].**
 - a. Our entire teaching staff will be coming to school that day for an afternoon session which will last until @ 5pm. Our professional development will be provided by two educators coming in from Phoenix, Arizona! One is the Assistant Superintendent of Schools and the other is a diocesan principal. They are in servicing all of the Philadelphia diocesan teachers and administrators in the morning of January 3 and are willing to come here in the afternoon! **Therefore all diocesan schools in Philadelphia and SES will be returning to school on January 4.**
 - b. Title II A money will allow these two educators to work with all our teachers on a very powerful, fundamental, and timely topic: "Every family has the right to choose a Catholic Education for their child/children. We will do everything we can to make this happen by providing support and materials for our educators who will in turn do their best to meet the needs of all students but especially the exceptional learners."
 - i. In addition, they will return to Saint Ephrem the following morning to work with a few lead teachers on how best to incorporate best practices going forward!
2. I am pursuing other providers who will be able to coordinate with us **by utilizing PD days already on our calendar.**
3. I am presently working with the BCIU Coordinator to look at further possibilities like teaching materials, workshop attendance, and book clubs with and for the teachers.
 - a. I will hope to **capture time** to work with some of the above materials with our teachers during the **last week of school in June when we have staggered attendance.**

Appreciating your struggles in providing child care for your children, I thank you for understanding my challenge in receiving notice of these Title IIA funds after our calendar and school year were already in place.

As always, I appreciate your partnering with us since it is KEY for all of us "to keep educating ourselves"! Thank you for your continued understanding as well as cooperation!

Blessings and thanks and...Happy Thanksgiving!