



Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will hold you up with my victorious hand.

**Isaiah 41:10**

## A Message from Assistant Principal Gerber



Yuma Catholic Family,

As the New Year brings the start of our second semester, we take this time to reflect and to be thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. We are thankful for our students, supportive families, our staff, and dedicated teachers. We are thankful for being able to provide a stellar, signature Yuma Catholic education even in the midst of the on-going pandemic.

We extend our congratulations to Luis Robles who received a Questbridge College Match Scholarship and we are proud to have seniors who have been accepted to Dartmouth and the University of Notre Dame. Our senior class is already at over \$7 million and counting in scholarships. We continue to increase our dual enrollment course offerings. These college level classes are taught by our own faculty

on the YC campus. We currently offer 24 Dual Enrollment courses. Ten seniors are on track to earn their associate degree from AWC at the time of graduation from Yuma Catholic.

Our students are actively participating in clubs and our winter sports are underway. Some things may be virtual or look a bit different; but we are thankful for these opportunities to build community. YCHS students are preparing to give back to the Yuma community as we kick off Catholic Schools Week with a food drive to support the Yuma Community Food Bank.

Join us in recognizing and celebrating, Jennifer Miller, the Yuma County Teacher of the Year! We are grateful for the dedication and passion she brings to teaching all of her classes, 12<sup>th</sup>-grade Government and Free Enterprise, DE Criminal Justice, and Yearbook. Mrs. Miller is an outstanding and highly effective teacher whose enthusiastic and energetic teaching style actively engages her students. Congratulations on this most deserving honor!

While this year continues to present challenges due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies and continued prayers to those who have lost loved ones or who have suffered hardships due to COVID.

We are most thankful for your continued support that enables us to share the gift of Catholic education with the Yuma community. I find it most fitting that Yuma Catholic will be returning to school during Catholic Schools Week. We are grateful for your loyal generosity in support of our Shamrocks. Keep the Faith!

Respectfully,

Sheryl Gerber- Assistant Principal of Academics

**Tradition Never  
Graduates.**

**1 Corinthians 16:13** Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

### Upcoming Calendar



Visit us online @ [yumacatholic.org](http://yumacatholic.org)

**Jan 31-Feb 6**

Catholic Schools Week

**Feb 8-12**

Love Your Shamrock

**Feb 17**

Ash Wednesday

**Mar 11**

3rd Qrt Ends

**Mar 29-Apr 2**

Spring Break

**Apr 3**

Easter Vigil & Confirmation for YC

**Apr 5**

Easter Monday No School

**Apr TBD**

Ag Dinner

## Teaching During a Pandemic: Our Teachers Rock!

Please help us in extending our gratitude to all of our teachers! Teaching during the pandemic has been anything but typical! YC teachers live their mission everyday by bringing students a message of Christian hope, offering a sense of normalcy and stability all while maintaining academic rigor and relevance in their teaching during the pandemic. They have quickly become experts in all things Google, including Google Classroom and Google Meets! Watching the teachers support one-another, search for technology solutions, and share their expertise in different areas makes for a flourishing learning community that is passionate about student learning whether online or in-person.

Flexibility and adaptability have been key. YCHS started both semesters online and then returned to in-person teaching as quickly and safely as the COVID situation allowed. Once students returned to campus, teachers were expected to open their classroom doors earlier than usual in order to reduce congregating in the hallways, to sanitize desks and chairs between each class period and to pick up extra lunch duties to cover the added outdoor lunch space. The additional duties were added while the expectations for planning, teaching, and grading remained. One thing is clear, YC teachers ROCK! - Administration



Fall sports taught current Shamrocks dedication, commitment, and perseverance. We were dealt many hurdles, and through it all we met the challenge. We remained steadfast and kept our athletes determined to overcome each and every challenge.

Adversity is a constant in life. Our Shamrocks are dealing with adversity each and every day and preparing themselves for future challenges. - Jeff Welsing, YC Athletic Director



YC faculty, students, and parents have worked hand-in-hand in helping our students be academically successful during the pandemic. Communication has been key during this time. Teachers and counselors are reaching out to students & parents if they notice a struggle and are finding solutions to obstacles that are impeding their academic success. YC is so proud of the partnership and strong relationship that we have with our students and parents.

Although we have had to change our means of delivering lessons to our students, the expectations for success remain intact. Teachers are clearly stating what students are expected to learn, along with an agenda for what is being taught each day. Our students and parents also promote strong expectations not only for the students but the teachers as well.

As educators, we have been challenged to be creative and find new ways to engage our students. We are proud of the work our teachers have done by learning new strategies to engage students online as well as utilize online platforms that foster the learning objectives for their students. I know that some of the technology that teachers have embraced will continue to be utilized when the entire student body returns because they are effective programs. In the end, we have been successful because we respect and care for each other, continue to set high expectations, and work together to solve problems that we encounter. - Terra Stallworth, Counseling Director

My favorite part about teaching is the students. It has been hard not having them here in person - I miss their smiles, laughter, goofy stories, and fun personalities. Luckily, we have been able to interact through Google Meets four times a week, which has enabled the rapport built in the first semester to continue. Not only that, but it also allows for more personalized instruction - we're able to still teach students instead of simply teaching a curriculum.



I look forward to the day when we are all able to be back in the classroom, safely together. But until then, I truly believe that the students at Yuma Catholic are getting the best education possible at this time. Their teachers really love and care for them, and we're all doing what we can to make this the most effective and supportive experience possible. Know of our prayers for you and your families!

-Sister Mary Theresa, Campus Ministry & Theology Faculty



One thing that is abundantly clear to me is my students' ability to persevere. Everyone knows that high school consists of all different types of students who have different interests, abilities, and goals. While these allow students to form strong friendships, they also keep students from connecting with people who may not be like them. However, now I see the kids truly missing each-other and making new friends. I truly believe that online learning and COVID times have reminded us all of what really matters; Love. I am blessed to witness my students show compassion and interest in each of their classmates in order to build new and lasting friendships, because after all, we are all Shamrock Strong.

-Taylor Potter, Ag Faculty

## Alumni Spotlight: Jake Montchal Class of 2011



My name is Jake Montchal, a YC Shamrock from the Class of 2011. Since graduation I have received my bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Northern Arizona University. I came back to Yuma to work at YRMC in the Outpatient Cardiopulmonary Rehab where I stayed for close to 4 years. I have an extremely supportive wife and we have a beautiful daughter together. In February of 2020 I accepted a position at Banner University Medical Center – Downtown Phoenix for Outpatient and Inpatient Cardiac Rehab to be started in April.

As we all know a lot changed in those few months, by the end of March, YRMC's outpatient cardiac rehab was shut down and I had only a few hours to say goodbye to my coworkers, friends, and family that I had made over the last 4 years. Fast forward to April 13<sup>th</sup> when I started my job in Phoenix. Instead of jumping into cardiac rehab, I was trained to do many different things around the hospital to help with the pandemic and only 7 days after starting a new job I got COVID myself. Lucky for me, it was a mild case and I was out of work for only 2 weeks. Upon my return I was motivated to help patient's suffering from COVID and joined a team known as the "prone" team. On this team we worked with COVID patients on ventilators and repositioned them onto their belly or back. These were 12 hour shifts of switching on and off PPE, walking into a vented COVID patient's room, organizing all their drip lines and other medical devices, and literally flipping the patient. These shifts were taxing and can wear down a person's spirit.

There is a lot I did and learned at Yuma Catholic! I was on the football team, basketball team, and ran track as well. I was in NHS, I helped set up mass every week, and I will never forget the day I wrote and ran a prayer message with slideshow and all. There are many people and activities that influenced me throughout my years at Yuma Catholic, but there is a saying that has stuck with me throughout the years, "Keep the Faith!" When I have a heart failure patient whose prognosis is poor, "Keep the Faith". When you are unsure this COVID patient will make it through the night, "Keep the Faith". When you are unsure you can get up and face another day at the hospital, "Keep the Faith".

With faith we can keep ourselves hopeful that the heart failure patient will receive the donor heart for their transplant, optimistic that the COVID patient will start to recover and finally get off the ventilator, and keeping the faith will inspire you to work hard, care for your patients, and motivate you to continue no matter how tough it may get! My message to students is one that you have probably heard many of times, "Keep the Faith," because faith will keep you going!



# The Sandoval's Journey: With God All Things are Possible



**We all have our own stories to tell on how COVID affected our lives.**

**Allow me to share with you how it affected mine. –Mrs. Jessa Sandoval, YC Chemistry Faculty**

Two years ago, I received the blessing of being hired at Yuma Catholic High School, a great institution, as a cultural exchange teacher. While my happiness was beyond words because opportunities such as this come only once in a lifetime, and to only a few. Being thousands of miles away from my loved ones, especially my husband and 5-year old daughter was breaking my heart each passing day. The time difference only made matters worse as there were times when we wouldn't be able to talk to each other because they would be asleep when I was awake and vice versa. There was also the challenge of learning and adapting to a new culture, a new system and the like. However, I was blessed to have co-workers and superiors who were all very supportive and treated me like family. Having them made each day bearable. Through all this, my strength came from the Lord our God.

I am a living testament of how God is a God of blessing and wonders, because just when I was about to break about not having my family around, an opportunity for them to come here to the USA presented itself. Yuma Catholic needed a Theology teacher, and through the kindness of Mr. Stallworth and Mrs. Gerber, my husband was hired. Needless to say, I couldn't contain my excitement when they told me the news and couldn't wait to have my husband and daughter join me here in Yuma. So, we immediately processed everything necessary to fly them here, but then COVID happened. It was a full 360 degrees turn. All the happiness and excitement turned into unexplainable sadness coupled with fear. One thing led into another when COVID struck. COVID-19 prevented me from going home last summer due to the lockdown. Kenneth and Kailey's US embassy appointment was cancelled, the US ban for non-immigrants, Philippine's Moratorium for Cultural Exchange teachers and more prevented them from coming to the USA.

This challenged my faith and I honestly did not know if I could hold on any longer. Kenneth and Kailey felt the same way. I vividly remember how disheartened they were, especially my daughter, when I told her we will not reunite during the pandemic. My longing for my family only got worse from then on. I would sleep and wake up feeling hopeless and sadder knowing that I wouldn't be able to be with them especially for the coming Christmas. That's when I held on to my faith even harder.

My trust in the Lord shone through again. As my hope faltered and I was about to break, His ray of hope was even brighter. We learned that travelling for valid reasons would be allowed and thus after working on the necessary documents, God blessed Kenneth and Kailey the blessing of family, as they were given the pass to come to USA. My heart was filled with overflowing joy. God gave more than we asked for, everything happened so fast and they were able to make it before Christmas. On the day of their arrival, only God knows exactly what I felt. Finally, after 17 months we were reunited. It was a scene straight out of the movies when I ran and hugged them upon seeing them at the airport. That is one of the most precious moments that cannot be replaced by anything in the world.



I always believe that God will be there and will not give us something that we can't surpass. As I quote a beautiful bible verse that says, "But Jesus overheard their report and said to the synagogue leader, 'Don't be afraid; just keep trusting.'" — Mark 5:36. God speaks to us that no matter how unfortunate things may seem in your life, trusting God will help ease your pain.

We are very grateful for the opportunity Yuma Catholic High School gave us. An opportunity that only comes once in a lifetime. To teach the minds, touch the hearts, and transform the lives of our students through service to the community guided by the teachings of Jesus. Despite this pandemic, we believe that education never stops. Working together with the parents, administrators, teachers and everyone in school for the good of our students made us stronger and inspired us to give our best in everything we do for their future. It may be difficult, but we strongly believe we can surpass everything with the help and support of one another and the guidance of God.

We are faithful that someday everything will be OK. Together, we can make it a better world again if we continue to work for the common good and always place our trust in God.

**Kenneth, Jessa & Kailey Sandoval**

## Catch the Spirit - Campus Ministry News



A new year always comes with lots to look forward to, and this is especially true of Campus Ministry heading into the second semester. We are excited that the return to in-person learning coincides with Catholic Schools' Week!

Days focused on family, our students, faculty & staff, vocations and the like will provide opportunities for students to grow in their faith, have fun, and show appreciation to those who make their great education here at Yuma Catholic possible!

In addition, we are moving ahead with plans for our senior Kairos retreat, this year being held at Yuma Catholic. Our senior retreat leaders are working very hard to make sure it is still the same powerful experience that our alumni know it to be.

Finally, the students preparing to come into the Church this year at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> are moving forward with their RCIA classes. We ask that you join us in supporting them with your prayers. Know of our prayers for you and your families!

# YC's Mrs. Miller is Yuma County's Teacher of the Year!



Jennifer Miller

We applaud our very own teacher from our Shamrock Family who was chosen as Yuma County's Teacher of the Year! We know Mrs. Miller is deserving of such honor. Her enthusiasm, energy, knowledge and professionalism make her the best every day. Mrs. Miller has made YC's mission her mission, leading students towards Christ, college and service to the community. YC couldn't be prouder!

## Advancement Office

It is the time of year that we know that many of you are getting ready to file your State/Federal Taxes for 2020. Did you know it is not too late to make a charitable donation that will impact your 2020 State return and have an impact on your 2021 Federal return? Individuals can donate up to \$1,183 and Married couples filing jointly can donate up to \$2,365 to a school tuition organization (STO). You will receive a one for one Arizona State Tax Credit for up to those amounts! In other words, your donation will be returned to you via your state income tax refund provided that you had that much state income tax liability. You have until April 15, 2021 or when you file your state taxes to make the donation to a STO. It is not too late to support a Yuma Catholic High School student by designating the school or a specific student (not your own). These donations provide much needed tuition assistance for students, which allows more families to choose a faith based education. The Arizona Tuition Tax Credit serves all families that apply to the STO's for support if funds are made available by your donation. It is a great way to designate how your AZ tax dollars are spent.

For more information, call Bobbi Ukura in Advancement at 928-317-7924 or talk to your tax professional. You may visit the websites of the School Tuition Support organizations for more information. YCHS works closely with the three noted here. We have also provided the brochure from Arizona's CTSO with this mailing, but it is your choice in regards to the agency you choose to donate through. They all do great work to support our students and families. God Bless!

[yesfundforkids.org/](http://yesfundforkids.org/)

[azstay.org](http://azstay.org)



For more information call  
520-838-2558

[ctso-tucson.org/](http://ctso-tucson.org/)

## We've Got School Spirit!

**Student Council continues to try to keep school traditions as much as possible. Last semester StuCo held two socially distanced pep rallies, the Homecoming Court Coronation, a blood drive, and in person as well as online spirit week.**

**These are trying times, but we must continue serving our community and keep our school spirit alive.**



**The Volleyball team won the West Region championship and qualified for the State tournament.**

**The Football team won the West Region championship and made it all the way to the State championship undefeated.**