

*A Letter from Daniel T. O'Connell, Diocese of Trenton,
to Kim McQuaid, Zaner-Bloser*

May 2019

Dear Kim:

I just wanted to share some thoughts with you regarding the use of *Superkids* in our schools. As you know, a number of our schools currently use the *Superkids* program from Zaner-Bloser. My discussions with teachers and principals, as I go around to the schools, are always extremely positive. The schools that are “on board” with the program have seen the benefits from its use first-hand. The students love the characters and the stories that they have to tell. The students even make connections with the characters in other classes, as I witnessed in a recent social studies class.

In the last three years, we have begun an initiative to certify our teachers as classroom practitioners in the Orton-Gillingham program. Because the *Superkids* program is so immersed in phonics-based learning, it is the perfect complement to what our teachers are learning in the workshops and the practicum programs that we are offering. For us, it truly is a win-win result.

Your assistance in providing meaningful professional development in brain development and its connection to learning has been magnificent. Our principals and teachers have gleaned so much from presenters such as Dr. Richard Gentry and Stacey Leitzel. I cannot thank you enough for all you have done to help our teachers to help our students.

In my opinion, the “crowning jewel” of the *Superkids* program is the newly published *Lasting Lessons: Embracing Catholic Values and Virtues* to accompany the program. As someone who has been both involved in and committed to Catholic education for my entire personal life and professional career—both behind and before the teacher’s desk—this little gem is a most welcome addition to the program. A good bit of my focus in working with the schools has been to infuse Catholic identity in all that we do. To see a company that understands the value of Catholic schools and offers an open hand to work with them is truly a rare thing. Thank you so much for this!

Again, thanks for all that you do and long live the Superkids!
Sincerely,

Daniel T. O'Connell,
Associate Director for Curriculum & Instruction
Diocese of Trenton, NJ