



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the* ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

From: The Archdiocese of New York

Contact: T.J. McCormack, Director of Communications and Public Relations
(646) 794-2889; TJ.McCormack@archny.org

Joseph Zwilling, Archdiocese of New York
(646) 794-2997; Joseph.Zwilling@archny.org

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK EXTEND CLOSURE TO MONDAY APRIL 20TH

Safety of Students, Families, Staff and Greater Community a Primary Concern

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Monday, March 16, 2020) Superintendent of Catholic Schools Mr. Michael J. Deegan has announced Catholic Schools within the Archdiocese of New York have extended the closure of all elementary schools in our system through Monday, April 20th, 2020. Informed by the current CDC guidelines and in consultation with other health professionals, the Health and Safety Task Force of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools made this decision out of concern for the well-being of our students, families and staff. We believe this decision will also help to successfully decrease risk to the whole community.

Last week, our principals and teachers prepared educational materials to engage our students in a week of home-based learning activities. This extended closure now requires that our professional educators, under the guidance of their regional superintendents, continue to plan for a long-term, home-based learning experience, which will include the same religious, values-infused curriculum we teach every day of the year, utilizing innovative strategies and technology. We are committed to providing families with additional information on a regular basis.

We understand our students, families, educators and the greater community are still coming to terms with all that has happened in the past few weeks. In addition to remaining faithful to our academic standards, we believe that home-based learning will provide a comforting sense of normalcy to the thousands of students we will continue to educate as we navigate these days of uncertainty together.

Our website <https://catholicschoolsnny.org/> provides continually updated resources for school information as well as best practices for staying healthy and links to the U.S. State Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization and other resources.

For more than two centuries, Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of New York have taught and nurtured children from diverse backgrounds and successfully provided students with the life-changing opportunities that are inherent in a Catholic education. Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York currently serve more than 62,000 students from PreK through 12th grade at more than 200 schools across nine counties and three boroughs throughout New York. That includes Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx, and seven counties including Westchester, Orange, Dutchess, Rockland, Sullivan, Putnam and Ulster.

High Schools and Private Independent Catholic Schools closures are made independently of the Superintendent of Schools Office.

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