



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

September 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, I had the privilege of visiting all of our Catholic elementary schools; I was so proud and grateful for all you have done to re-open! Your hard work, dedication and resilience are why we have been so successful as we re-opened, welcoming back our beloved children.

Many of you saw the New York Post Op-Ed recognizing you - our principals, teachers and staff! While the first few days of school have been filled with many emotions, your devotion and dedication were captured in that affirming Sunday editorial.

As we begin the first full week, on behalf of our teaching and learning staff, led by the regional superintendents, talented instructional specialists and coaches, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you have and will continue to do in the coming weeks and school year. We want to keep the lines of communication open. To that end, some of you have already received some new exciting resources for this upcoming school year.

- We launched a "[First Days of School Re-Opening Website](#)," where you can be supported as we ***Move Forward Together: Opening Catholic Schools***. This site full of rich research based academic resources will continue to be updated as we endeavor to give you quick and short videos as ongoing professional development. These are designed to help you with the "[First Days of School](#)"
- We invested millions of dollars in technology enabling all children access to our classrooms. We know glitches are still being worked out. In response, we launched a [technology support website](#) to capture what the issues are and an additional dedicated staff to assist with finding solutions. Many issues have already been resolved while others may take some additional time as we work with vendors and internet providers.
- We are thrilled to announce an expanded national partnership with Discovery Education; you now have access to their complete Tech-book Digital Science (K-8) and Social Studies (6-8) curriculums for the school year. These are aligned to the new standards and we will begin supporting you in the usage of these new resources going forward. We invite you to learn more about this exciting partnership [here](#).
- We heard and listened to you about your desire to use NWEA MAP data to inform your instruction. We all recognize the importance of data to inform teaching and assess learning. However, you also asked I reconsider the timing of the first NWEA MAP test. After consultation with the regional superintendents and the staff of the office of teaching and learning, I have decided to cancel the administration of the fall 2020 NWEA MAP test. We are committed to the January 2021 and May 2021 test.

Lastly, let me again thank you for your work in espousing the gospel message of "Let the children come to me," (Luke 18:16) by allowing all of our children to return to our prayerful routines and familiar classrooms we have all longed for since March.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York