



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

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.



# Your Child's Journey Starts Here

Early Childhood:  
Pre-K to Kindergarten



## Agenda

- Welcome
- About Catholic Schools: Fast Facts
- Early Childhood: The Foundations of Education
- Preparing My Child for Kindergarten
- How to Apply to a Catholic School
- Financial Assistance
- Questions & Answers





## About Catholic Schools

The Archdiocese of New York is a leading private educator of Pre-K children in New York State

## Fast Facts

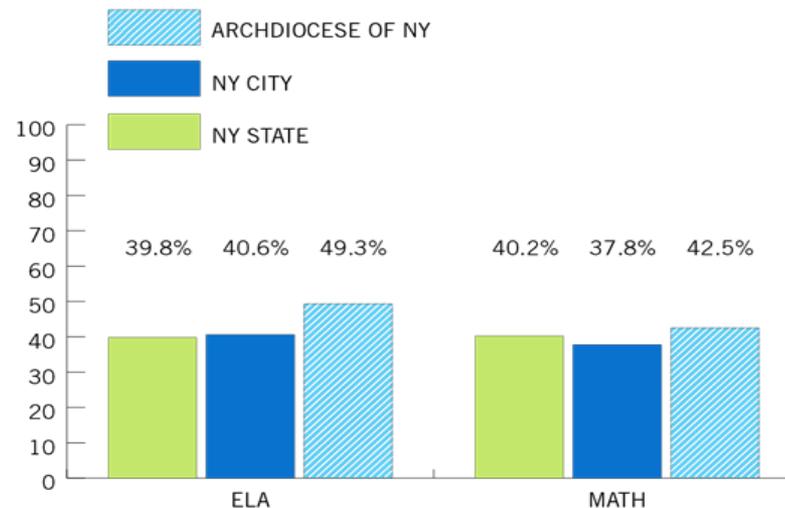
- We welcome more than 7,500 children of all faiths across 139 schools: 22% of our Pre-K/UPK students are non-Catholic
- Today, 96% of our teachers are highly-qualified lay educators; 55% have, or are pursuing, a master's degree
- Your children will enjoy a safe, caring environment and individualized attention
- Our Pre-K and Free UPK programs provide a solid foundation for children to build on as they progress into elementary school and beyond
- We help your child succeed academically through intellectual growth, but also emotionally and socially
- Character development, with an emphasis on kindness and caring, is woven into every lesson
- We make every effort to give all Pre-K and UPK students priority placement in our Kindergarten programs



## Academic Achievement

Over 99% of our high school seniors graduate, and 99% of those grads go on to college or post-secondary education.

The 2016-17 New York State Education Department Examination results show that Catholic school students outpaced New York State and New York City public school students in terms of the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards in both Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA):





## Foundations of Education

Our Pre-K Program prepares students:

- to learn;
- to ask questions;
- to show respect to their teachers and peers;
- to be socially and emotionally engaged kindergarteners;
- to participate in the life of a Catholic school; and
- to be successful in Kindergarten and beyond.



## Foundations of Education

(continued)

Students are prepared to learn and show respect to their teachers and peers:

- Teachers engage students in meaningful activities through theme-based curriculum and games.
- Students are immersed in *literacy* through: (1) the labeling of materials; (2) having books and writing materials available in centers; and (3) daily literacy whole group instruction.
- Students are immersed in *math* through: (1) having manipulatives available in centers; and (2) daily whole group discussions involving number identification and comparisons, and problem solving.
- Teachers facilitate and monitor small group and whole group learning activities to guide positive interactions among students.
- Teachers organize activities to support students' transition to Kindergarten (i.e., visiting the K classroom for story time, meeting the K teacher).



## Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

Make sure your child has experience in the following areas:

- listening to others and taking appropriate turns for expressing ideas and questions;
- handling materials respectfully and putting them away;
- sustaining engagement with an activity or process; □
- identifying and pursuing his/her own interests;
- choosing materials and having some ideas about how to engage with them productively;
- being safe in relation to the group, attending to personal needs (washing hands); and
- asking for help when he/she needs it.



## Kindergarten in Our Catholic school

Students participate in the life of our Catholic school:

- Students participate in daily prayer.
- Students learn about caring for others and those in need.
- Students engage in service projects with the greater school community.
- Teachers help students to recognize themselves as individuals with unique qualities.
- Teachers help students to become able to express their feelings, needs and opinions.



## What You Can Do at Home to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten

- Have conversations about prayer and why and when we pray.
- Participate in community service as a family – volunteer at a soup kitchen, clean up a local park – and talk about the experience afterward.
- Expose your child to church and what goes on.
- Talk about kindness and how we treat others.
- Read books to help teach friendship skills, feeling words and problem-solving
- Play with your child using puppets or other toys to act out problems and come up with solutions together.
- Give verbal prompts, encouragement, specific feedback and guidance for how to act appropriately.
- Celebrate large and small successes at home with your family.
- Monitor television and internet use.



## Helpful Hints Before the First Day of Kindergarten

### Important steps to take

1. Send a note to the teacher and the nurse if your child has allergies or special needs.
2. Visit the school and meet the teacher prior to the first day of school.
3. Start your school routine early – a few weeks before school actually begins to ease into the adjustment.
4. Label everything.
5. Read books together about starting school (*Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, Joseph Slate; *Seven Little Mice Go to School*, Kazuo Iwamura; *Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes*, Eric Litwin)



## How to Apply for Admissions

Families can apply starting **Dec. 1, 2017** for children in grades Pre-K-3-8<sup>th</sup>

1. All Catholic school students in Pre-K4 and UPK must fill out a new online Admissions Application if they are interested in attending Kindergarten at the Catholic school they are currently attending.
2. APPLY Online by visiting: [www.APPLYCatholicSchoolsNY.org](http://www.APPLYCatholicSchoolsNY.org).
3. By phone at 646-794-2885, between 9:00am and 5:00pm, if you are unable to access a computer or would like to access Spanish-language representatives and/or translation services for other languages.
4. At the school of interest with the help of school staff.
5. To complete the online admissions application you will need an email address. If you do not have an email address, you will need to create one prior to proceeding.
6. Complete the Online Admissions Application and submit.
7. Save the user ID and password used to create your application.



## How to Apply for Admissions (continued)

Families can apply starting **Dec. 1, 2017** for children in grades Pre-K3-8<sup>th</sup>

8. Your child's application is not considered complete until he/she has been interviewed and you have submitted all required documents to the school.
9. You will be given a link and access code to apply for financial assistance/scholarship upon submission of your online admissions application.
10. After you have submitted your online application, please call the school to schedule an interview. The school's staff will inform you what documents are required in addition to those noted below.
  - Birth certificate for Kindergarten
  - Report card for grades 1 to 8
  - Standardized test scores for grades 1 to 8
  - If applicable, the current Individualized Education Plan on file with the Committee for Special Education (CSE). For all grades
  - If applicable, 504 Recommendation. For all grades



## How to Apply for Financial Assistance

Increased Opportunities for Scholarships and Financial Assistance – New Students – Grades K - 8

1. A student new entering Kindergarten through Grade 8, who has completed and submitted their Admissions Application to the Catholic of their choice and whose family meets the income eligibility requirements may apply for Financial Assistance. Note: your child's application is not considered complete until he/she has been interviewed and you have submitted all required documents to the school.
2. New students who have a sibling already receiving Financial Assistance or a Scholarship must update their Financial Assistance Applications
  - Use the same user ID and password you used for Admissions if completing a Financial Assistance/Scholarship application.
  - The earlier students apply, the better their chances of receiving financial assistance. Applications received on or after the early admissions date of Dec. 1st, 2017 will receive their decisions sooner.
  - There is a fee of \$35 to submit your Financial Assistance application.



## How to Apply for Financial Assistance

(continued)

Increased Opportunities for Scholarships and Financial Assistance – New Students – Grades K - 8

This is a suggested guideline of incomes used when determining financial need for School Year 2017-18. This guideline may increase for School Year 2018-19.

Income Eligibility Guidelines for Scholarships and Financial Assistance*	
Household Size	Eligible Income
Two	\$91,056
Three	\$108,528
Four	\$126,000
Five	\$143,472
Six	\$160,944
Seven	\$178,416
Eight	\$195,888

\*Eligible income includes: Income as reported on Federal form 1040 in addition to public assistance, food stamps, child support or alimony, Social Security benefits, SSI, and/or disability, unemployment benefits, workers' compensation, other government assistance and financial aid from family/friends if applicable



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**[www.schools.nyc.gov/PreK](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/PreK)**



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**We look forward to continuing to build the educational foundation with your child in kindergarten next year!**

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