



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

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK TO CLOSE SEVEN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AT CONCLUSION OF ACADEMIC YEAR

(*February 4, 2019 – New York, NY*) – The Office of the Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New York today announced seven Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York will cease operations at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

Despite the Archdiocese's best efforts to maintain the operational and financial viability of these schools, continuing to educate students in buildings that are underutilized and/or in need of significant improvements has proven unfeasible.

All affected families will be welcomed in neighboring Catholic schools, with applications for financial aid and scholarships available for the upcoming academic year. Informational meetings and additional information will be shared with school constituencies in the coming days.

“We understand these are challenging times for many families, and we will work with all students who are seeking to continue their Catholic education to find a seat at another excellent school in the Archdiocese,” said Dr. Timothy McNiff, Superintendent of Schools.

“While we sincerely regret ever having to close any schools, the goal is to strengthen the remaining institutions and preserve Catholic education in New York for years to come,” said Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. “We understand the impact this will have on families, and will provide both pastoral support and educational guidance to all those affected in order to ensure all children will be warmly welcomed into a nearby Catholic school where they will continue to learn and thrive.”

For more than two centuries, Catholic schools in 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 Pre-K through 12th grade across 208 schools in ten counties and boroughs throughout New York. The Archdiocese continues to implement its strategic plan, *Pathways to Excellence II*, to ensure excellence and sustainability in all aspects of Catholic education.

“Catholic schools offer students the fundamentals parents care about – outstanding academics within a safe and nurturing community,” said McNiff. “Our academic success also continues to surpass both New York State and City schools, while 99 percent of our high school seniors graduate with a vast majority enrolling in post-secondary education. These are the attributes of Catholic education we strive to preserve for future generations.”

The following schools will close in June 2019, at the end of the current academic year:

Manhattan:

St. Rose of Lima Elementary School

St. Brigid School

Staten Island:

Our Lady Help of Christians Elementary School

Bronx:

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Elementary School

St. Joseph Elementary School

Dutchess:

St. Mary Elementary School-Wappingers Falls, NY

Sullivan:

St. Peter's Regional School-Liberty, NY

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