



# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

May 13, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families,

We write you today with important updates for all fourth quarter academics. Since Remote Learning began in March, we have worked to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students while simultaneously maintaining the spirit of academic excellence that makes our Catholic Schools so vibrant. All have risen to the occasion during this unprecedented time. Now that the remainder of the school year will be completed remotely, please note the following updates to our schools' grading policies across grade levels:

	Grades 1-5 (Core Subjects)	Grades 3-5 (Religion)	Grades 6-8 (All Subjects)
First Quarter (Q1)	28.3%	25%	25%
Second Quarter (Q2)	28.3%	25%	25%
Midterm Exam (E)	(NA)	10%	10%
Third Quarter (Q3)	28.3%	25%	25%
Fourth Quarter (Q4)	15%	15%	15%

- Q4 has been uniformly assigned a 15% weight, with the outstanding weight distributed evenly across earlier marking periods.
- There will be no final exams given this year, and its 10% weight has also been redistributed for applicable grade levels.
- There is no MAP testing for the spring.
- Our Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be receiving a detailed narrative summary of their progress.

From the very beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, our educators have been working to meet the needs of our students as whole persons, and have maintained the same high expectations for instruction in accordance with the Parent/Student Handbook received at the outset of the school year. The figures and decisions above are measurable, concrete actions we have taken to meet our students with the Christ-centered compassion necessary during this unique time.

These decisions were carefully considered with the best interest of all students as their driving force at every step. In careful consultation with early-childhood, elementary, and middle-school leaders, these decisions reflect a sense of continuity with earlier quarters. Our model allows for greater transcript compatibility for our students preparing for high school in ways that other models (e.g. pass/fail) do not.

In addition, this provides our Catholic schools a unified effort for each of its diverse classrooms to respond to every student in a way that acknowledges the unprecedented nature of this time. We keep alive that Catholic virtue at the center of our faith, as it moves us ever forward: Hope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Deegan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

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