



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

September 7, 2022

Month of Our Lady of Sorrows

Dear Catholic Schools Community,

As Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York reopen their doors and welcome *everyone* – students, families, and staff – back, we are confident this will be a great 2022-2023 school year. Many of the onerous health regulations and protocols have finally been lifted, but we are *mindful* that COVID remains a pandemic, and mitigation efforts remain in place, such as enhanced ventilation and hygiene. We trust you will continue to do your part in keeping your households safe, thereby keeping our schools safe as well.

By now, you are well informed in the differences and similarities between COVID-19 and other ailments. We ask you to continue the practices that have brought you safely to this point. If someone in your home is under the weather, consider utilizing a test provided by your school or at [one of the sites here](#) before sending your child to class.

Our Catholic schools reopening plan, following the New York State Department of Health guidance, was shared with principals and [posted on our website](#). We ask that you read it carefully and reach out to your principal with any questions. In the posted plan, you will see several changes to recommendations for the opening of school. Of particular note are the following::

- Masks are optional. We recommend that all school community members wear them, but they are *not* required. **We shall *always* respect and support everyone's personal choices.**
- Parents will no longer be required to submit daily health checks.

Families are reminded that all regular childhood immunizations, which are separate and distinct from COVID-19 vaccinations, must be received before the start of school under State Law. This is outlined in the [school handbook](#). We also strongly encourage everyone to get as well as the FLU vaccine. In NYC, children 59 months (4 years old 11 months) and under are mandated by NYC DOH to receive the flu shot by Dec 31st. We *strongly* encourage you and anyone eligible to get their COVID vaccination.

All the above are meant to contribute to a safe, healthy environment for your children to experience our beautiful Christ-centered curriculum where they will pray, learn, and grow together.

In what will be a particularly beautiful and reaffirming initiative, our students will join in the Eucharistic Revival of the Catholic Church in the United States this year. They will learn more about our faith's central belief that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. By introducing the holy people of our faith ranging from early Christian, St. Tarcisus, to the contemporary Blessed Carlo Acutis, our students will practice the devotion of Eucharistic adoration. In short, they will learn to *encounter Jesus in the Eucharist*.

Our values-infused school communities are dedicated to teaching the whole child, taking great care to provide social-emotional learning and parental support in that endeavor because all are critical to student success. Celebrating 50 years of service, ADAPP has resources that can be found at [adapp.org](#). This year, in addition to their regular mental health, social and emotional wellness, and substance use prevention sources, ADAPP counselors will be trained to implement a new program for parents, *Triple P*. *Triple P* provides simple, practical strategies that help parents raise happy, confident children; set family routines

and rules that everyone can follow; and balance work and family life with less stress. You can [click here](#) for their most current resource with tips for parents about helping their child return to school.

Our academically superior curriculum continues to set the standard for education in America today. This year, schools will once again benefit from the partnerships we have forged with our curricular partners, such as:

- NWEA and the MAP test for data that informs instruction and differentiated math content via MAP Accelerator; Discovery Education Science for dynamic
- Next Generation Standards-aligned digital content
- Newsela for a trove of Lexile-adjustable nonfiction articles from real-world print sources

We continue to invest in these curricular partnerships to ensure our students have the best resources available. If you know of a child who would benefit from a Catholic school education, [invite them to join us today](#). Seats are available.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy school year!

Sincerely,



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

CC: Michael J. Coppotelli, Senior Associate Superintendent of Schools
Regional Superintendents