



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

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**Media Contact:**

Gerald J. Wutkowski, Jr.  
Director of Communications and Digital Media  
Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
Archdiocese of New York  
O: (646) 794-2761 | C: (917) 890-6812  
[Gerald.Wutkowski@archny.org](mailto:Gerald.Wutkowski@archny.org)

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## **Archdiocese of New York Engages in Comprehensive Study to Strengthen Catholic Education**

**NEW YORK**—The Archdiocese of New York’s Department of Education - Superintendent of Schools Office has undertaken a vital step to ensure its Catholic schools' future strength and sustainability. Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, recently shared details about the ongoing School Viability Study, which is currently evaluating the health and vitality of the archdiocese's regional and parish elementary schools.

“As we enter the sacred season of Advent—a time of hopeful anticipation and preparation for the birth of our Savior—I am reminded of the Holy Family’s journey to Bethlehem,” Sr. Mary Grace Walsh wrote in her letter to families and friends of Catholic schools. “Despite the uncertainty they faced, their trust in God’s plan brought them encounters with shepherds and wise men, uniting all in the joyful mystery of Christ’s birth.”

Inspired by this spirit of trust, the Archdiocese’s School Viability Study reflects a commitment to the careful stewardship of Catholic education. Over the past several months, schools have actively participated in the study through self-assessments, on-site visits, and discussions with educational leaders. Guided by the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (2023), the study focuses on four critical areas:

- **Mission and Catholic Identity**
- **Governance and Leadership**
- **Academic Excellence**
- **Operational Vitality**

“This study is intended to serve as a guiding light, helping us strengthen and sustain the mission of Catholic education,” Sr. Mary Grace wrote. “Throughout the Christmas season, the Superintendent of Schools Office will prayerfully and carefully review the gathered information with a steadfast commitment to ensuring the long-term vitality of Catholic education across the Archdiocese.”

The study remains in progress, and findings are expected to be shared shortly after the Christmas season. Families and friends are encouraged to visit [www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org/SVS](http://www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org/SVS) to learn more about the process, including a timeline and frequently asked questions.

“Together, through prayer, collaboration, and trust in God’s providence, we will move forward with hope, building a vibrant and faith-filled future for Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New York,” Sr. Mary Grace concluded.

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