



# SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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December 11, 2024

### Dear Families and Friends of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York:

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. 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.

In that same spirit of faith and trust, I want to share an update on the path forward for Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New York. As one of the largest and most diverse Catholic educational systems in the nation, maintaining the vitality of our schools requires both prayerful discernment and thoughtful stewardship. To this end, we have launched a comprehensive School Viability Study for our regional and parish elementary schools.

Over the past months, schools have actively participated in this process through self-assessments, on-site visits, and in-depth discussions with educational leaders. Using annual data as well as the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (2023)*, we have examined four key 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. 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. We hope to share the findings with you shortly after.

For more information about the study, including a timeline and frequently asked questions, please visit [www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org/SVS](http://www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org/SVS).

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.

Sincerely, in Christ

Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools