



**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OFFICE**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK**

March 16, 2026

**Dear Colleagues in the Ministry of Catholic Education:**

As we journey together through these forty days of prayer, reflection, and renewal, we are reminded of the hope that Easter brings, the new life and joy that come through the Resurrection of our Lord. Just as Christ calls us to turn toward Him in faith, this season invites us to see God at work in our schools, creating new opportunities for growth and learning, and bringing hope to our students and communities.

Over the past year, pastors, principals, and archdiocesan leaders have prayerfully considered ways to strengthen and sustain Catholic education across our archdiocese. Our School Renewal Plan process is part of an ongoing, faith-filled effort to ensure Catholic education remains vibrant, accessible, and life-giving for generations to come.

Through this process of discernment, we have explored many possibilities and have decided to focus on these enhanced ways to support learning, deepen faith formation, and help every student flourish:

- **Strengthening Catholic Identity and Faith Formation:** We will deepen the authentic Catholic identity of our schools by enhancing our foundational roots of Catholic education, strengthening faith formation, and fostering closer collaboration between clergy and school communities. By renewing the relationship between parish and school life, we will ensure that students encounter Christ through prayer, the sacraments, and the daily witness of clergy and educators who accompany them in faith.
- **Innovation in Learning, Personalized Education, and Exploration of New Models:** Across the archdiocese, schools will explore enhanced approaches that combine personalized instruction with archdiocesan-wide assessments and learning models that integrate faith, virtue, and intellectual curiosity. These approaches will help each student grow academically, spiritually, and creatively, and will guide us all as an archdiocesan learning community.
- **Expansion of STREAM Programs:** With generous foundation support, seven schools will become STREAM education centers (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math), giving students hands-on, innovative experiences while keeping faith at the center of learning.

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- **Latino Engagement Institute:** We will expand our collaboration with the Latino Engagement Institute, offered through the University of Notre Dame, to reach more schools and families across our Catholic schools. This program will help educators better meet the needs of students and families of all cultures, ensuring that every child can access a welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant Catholic education. By strengthening family engagement, we will help all students thrive academically, spiritually, and socially.
- **Expansion of Special Education Services:** We will strengthen and expand our programs to better serve students with diverse learning needs, recognizing the dignity and unique gifts of every child. Our continued focus will remain on the John Cardinal O'Connor School (JCOS), while also deepening our collaboration with educational partners, school districts, and municipalities so that, together, we may more fully support children and families.
- **Strengthening School Infrastructure:** Through planned capital investments, our schools will remain safe, welcoming, and well-equipped centers of learning and faith formation.

As part of this ongoing renewal, three schools will close at the end of the current academic year. These decisions reflect the responsible stewardship of our resources, ensuring that the gifts entrusted to us are used wisely for the broader mission of Catholic education:

- **Incarnation School in Manhattan, Sacred Heart School in Hartsdale, and Most Precious Blood School in Walden:** Will close at the end of the 2025-2026 academic year. These decisions were made after extensive reflection, study, and prayer, as we face significant challenges that make it impossible to continue our mission at these locations. It is our hope that all students will continue their Catholic school education in one of our other Catholic schools. Principals and enrollment teams will work with families in the months ahead to ensure a smooth transition.
- **Campus Consolidations: St. Anthony – St. Paul School in Nanuet/Valley Cottage and Transfiguration School in Manhattan:** St. Anthony–St. Paul School in Nanuet/Valley Cottage, and Transfiguration School in Manhattan (announced during Catholic Schools Week 2026) will undergo campus consolidations to strengthen their communities and steward resources responsibly. St. Anthony–St. Paul School will consolidate from two locations to one campus located on the grounds of the St. Anthony Parish in Nanuet. Transfiguration School will consolidate from three locations to two sites in Lower Manhattan. These consolidations will allow for more efficient operations while fostering stronger, unified communities where students and families can grow together in learning, prayer, and faith formation.

We know that change can bring mixed emotions, but every step we take is part of a faithful journey of renewal and growth. Your support, prayers, and partnership strengthen the relationships, trust, and spirit that make Catholic education in our archdiocese possible.

In the weeks ahead, we will share additional details and resources to help families celebrate new opportunities, support transitions, and continue to walk together in faith. Just as Lent leads us to the joy of Easter, these moments of renewal invite us to trust in God's providence and see His hand at work in our schools, our students, and our communities.

Thank you for your faith, support, and partnership in Catholic education. Together, we celebrate the hope and promise that God's grace brings to every student, family, and school community.

Sincerely, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Grace Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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