



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the*
ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK
Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

From: The Archdiocese of New York, Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Archdiocese of New York Commits to Safely Keeping Schools Open, Irrespective of NYC Public School Closures

(*November 16, 2020 – New York, NY*) – Since early September, the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York have been open for in-person learning. This ambitious course of action was made possible by the development of clear health and safety protocols under the *Catholic Schools Reopening Plan* and by strict adherence from school administrators, staff, and the students themselves. New York City’s Catholic schools remain one of the safest places for students.

“Catholic schools operate independently of New York City public schools,” said Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael J. Deegan. *“In the event of a closure of public schools by the mayor’s office, our Catholic schools will remain open until our Health and Safety Task Force, working with officials from the New York State Department of Health and the governor’s office determines otherwise.”*

Catholic schools faithfully follow rigorous state health guidelines, and decisions regarding closures can be made on an as-needed, school-by-school-basis. This approach is in line with the recommendations of Archdiocese health advisers who make these most pressing determinations regarding student and faculty safety.

With a rising positivity rate citywide, it’s likely that additional neighborhoods will find themselves under a Yellow Cluster Zone designation. The Archdiocese stands ready to comply with the all the requirements necessary to remain open safely for in-person learning and is committed to working with government health authorities to keep our schools and the greater community around them safe.

About the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York:

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York serve nearly 62,000 students from Pre-K through 12th grade across 172 schools across 9 counties and boroughs throughout New York.

Catholic schools offer a unique combination of academic and spiritual development that empowers children of all backgrounds to gain the confidence to realize their fullest potential.

www.catholicschoolsny.org

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