



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

April 27, 2021

The Year of St. Joseph

Dear Catholic School Families,

As we near the completion of another unprecedented academic year, I pause in gratitude for the continued faith you provide our Catholic schools and also to provide an academic update about our schools.

Our teachers have met the call to re-open our classrooms and to continue the digital adaptations needed to keep our students safe while learning. They have worked tirelessly with principals and regional leaders to ensure that our quality, Catholic education kept the same high standards that you have come to know from our schools and that have been outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. To meet the needs of the end of this school year while refusing to compromise our high standards, our schools will uniformly follow the protocols below to conclude our fourth quarter:

- Students will complete the spring NWEA MAP tests in language, reading, and math beginning May 10th to offer further insight into student growth over these months of COVID disruption. Principals will be working closely with the Office of Teaching & Learning to ensure successful administration of the spring tests. You may have heard or will be hearing more from principals in the coming days about MAP assessments.
- Final exams will not be administered, keeping in line with best practices for assessment and in close conversation with Regional Superintendents, Instructional Specialists and Principals. Teachers will continue to use formative and summative assessments to inform instruction for our students.
- Quarters 1-4 will each carry equal academic weight on reports cards, marking a return to pre-COVID Archdiocesan standards. The 2019-2020 school year saw an adjustment to the weight of Q4 due to emergency remote learning, which will not be in effect for 2020-2021.

This school year has been the result of an orchestrated effort of so many members of our Catholic school family. Your voices have been crucial to make sure we could meet the challenge of this school year head-on, particularly with the valued input of each of our Regional Superintendents, Instructional Specialists, Principals and Teachers. The decisions above represent a measured response of a coalition of educators to put the well-being of our students first.

As we will enter this month of Mary and move toward the year's end, I offer my sincere gratitude for your participation and continued faith in the value of a Catholic education. Like the saints before us, we will continue to answer the call of our times and let our lives be an example of Christ in all that we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Deegan".

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