



SAIN[†] MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY
A guiding light for children today.

October 7, 2020

Dear Families:

Coincidentally, or perhaps through divine providence, I was able to spend some time with the seventh grade yesterday, and they were discussing one of my favorite quotes from scripture: **“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer”** (Romans 12:12). After taking some time to discuss the passage with the class, I realized how appropriate its meaning is for us in this moment in time.

This is certainly a time of affliction, especially as Catholic schools just a few blocks from us are forced to close. They have been working just as hard as we have to keep their school communities safe, and it is disheartening and disappointing to see their doors close for no reason other than their position on a map. We pray for them as they work to endure during these turbulent times.

Certainly, the conflicting news reports about ZIP codes and color-coded maps can be confusing and worrisome. Despite this, we must continue. We will continue to provide the best educational experience for our children in the safest environment possible, and we will continue to pray. We will pray for our health, our safety, and the uninterrupted operation of our school—and it is through prayer that we will persevere.

Finally, we must rejoice. I understand that this may seem difficult, but we should remember that it is through hope that we rejoice. We have faith, and we remain hopeful, that we will endure and preserve through these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

WORLD'S FINEST CANDY SALE

CHOCOLATE GOES HOME TOMORROW!

World's Finest Chocolate will be going home on
Thursday, October 8th.

One box per family will be distributed.

Please remember, the candy has already
been paid for by your
Fundraising Commitment.

These boxes can be difficult to carry for some of
our younger students, so please make the
necessary arrangements at dismissal.



EARLY DISMISSAL

on Friday, October 9

- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- This is a full day for Pre-K for All students.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.

DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- **Nursery A and Nursery B** will dismiss at 12:15pm.
- **Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B** will dismiss at 12:30pm.
- **Grades 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4** will dismiss at 12:40pm.
- **Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8** will dismiss at 12:30pm.

DRESS DOWN DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

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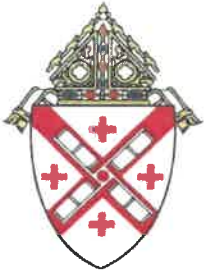
Please send in dress down money in a clearly labeled envelope with your child's name and grade.



Although it is a dress down day, students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire as described in the Parent-Student Handbook:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress – no shorter than 3” above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings or skinny jeans

Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK



1011 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022 PHONE (212) 371-1000 FAX: (212) 758-3018
MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

October 6, 2020

Dear Catholic Schools Families,

Over the past month, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn have been open and successfully conducting in-person Catholic education for our students. Our meticulously planned protocols, designed to keep students and teachers safe, and developed in conformity with city, state, and federal health guidelines, are working. Having heard from so many of you, we know you are grateful for all the hard work, time, and, yes, money – some \$18 million dollars -- that went into making sure our Catholic schools could open and operate safely, as they have been doing.

As you are likely aware, a number of areas in New York City and the surrounding counties are seeing an uptick in positive test results for COVID-19. Health experts have told us all along to anticipate such statistical trends as we entered autumn. In reaction to these expected numbers, Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio are instituting drastic measures by shutting down *all* public and private schools within certain *ZIP codes*. Rather than judging each school on their individual merits and their fidelity to the protocols set forth by their own administrations, the governor and mayor are painting all institutions with a draconian broad brush.

The safety of our Catholic school communities is paramount. It was that very guiding principle that saw us close our Catholic schools well before the public schools felt it necessary to do so in the Spring of 2020. Should there be a situation that required a Catholic school to close, we would not need to wait for elected officials to tell us to do so.

Our Catholic schools are faithfully adhering to the guidelines we have established. Isolated cases of COVID-19 in our Catholic schools have triggered these protocols, and in person learning has safely continued. The New York City Department of Health has been inspecting our Catholic schools. All have passed.

If other schools cannot meet the standards needed to operate safely, they should indeed be closed until they demonstrate their ability to do so. In the meantime, it is absolutely unfair to be associated with the non-compliant schools merely because we share a ZIP code.

Our principals, teachers and staff have worked too hard, and you, our families have provided too much support, that we cannot allow government officials to derail the education of your children. If you agree, please let your elected officials know how you feel, by taking a moment to call and email Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio, your city councilmember, state assembly member, and state senator and tell them to support schools that are working and not to institute these draconian measures.

This message is being delivered to all corners of both our diocese as we are brothers and sisters; part of the greater New York Catholic school community who may very well see these issues arise in your region. As such, we ask you utilize the links provided to reach as many elected officials as possible.

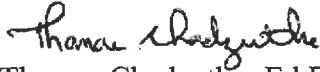
Please call Governor Cuomo directly 1-518-474-8390 and Mayor de Blasio at 212-788-3000.

In order to contact your state and local representatives, please utilize the following links:
All our families should visit [Find My Senator](#) as well as [Find My NY Assembly Member](#) while those who live within the five boroughs of New York City should also utilize [Find My City Council Member](#)

Regards,



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



Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D
Superintendent – Catholic Schools Support Services
R.C. Diocese of Brooklyn