



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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Dear Principals, Faculties, Students and Families,

Catholic Schools week is an annual celebration of Catholic education throughout the country. We join our brothers and sisters in Catholic education nationwide to observe the occasion with Masses, open houses and activities, letting it be known how proud we are of our great institutions and their contributions to our Church and communities.

There is something special about being first; in the case of Catholic schools in New York, we were the pioneers in providing organized education to society more than 200 years ago, when the land upon which sits St. Patrick's Cathedral was a farm. Two centuries later, we continue to innovate our approach to teaching and learning, led by our dedicated principals, faculty and staff who work to create a culture of learning and a determination to succeed. It is inspiring to see that determination produce results as, year after year, the performance of our students continues to improve in math and English Language Arts.

We operate under the guiding principle that "if it's not academically superior, it's not truly Catholic," meaning it is our sacred duty to prepare students for life — as productive citizens, and ultimately, preparing them to enter heaven. To that end, our school communities are welcoming, diverse and kind. We provide our children with the tools necessary to succeed in life and instill in them Catholic values. All of this can only be accomplished through collaboration together.

To all the families, teachers, principals, staff, religious and partners in our shared ministry; thank you. I wish you a joyous celebration of Catholic Schools Week in honor of all you do to make our schools worth celebrating.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McNiff, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York