



Archdiocese of Newark

Office of the Superintendent of Schools



January 24, 2024

Dear Members of Our Catholic School Communities:

Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Newark will celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024 from January 28 through February 3. The theme of this year's celebration is "United in Faith and Community." This theme captures the spirit of our Catholic schools: students, families, educators, and parishioners forming community, learning and living their faith, and reaching out to the larger community to put Jesus' message of love and mercy into action. Catholic schools are committed to providing students with an excellent academic education, faith formation and community building. In Catholic schools, we are all learners, servants, and leaders. Being united in a shared mission is at the core of Catholic education and is what helps our schools succeed. Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the great things that take place in our schools and to invite others to experience some of the specialness that keeps us "united in faith and community."

The Archdiocese of Newark is home to sixty-eight Catholic schools. Forty-six of those schools educate students in pre-kindergarten to Grade 8, and twenty-two schools offer a secondary school education. There are 2,100 children enrolled in our pre-kindergarten programs, over 10,000 students in kindergarten to grade 8 and another 9,700 students in grades 9-12. Strong school leadership, dedicated teachers and staff, and supportive parents and parishioners have helped our schools remain strong despite the challenges of the past few years. Our schools continually look for ways to improve their programs, whether by strengthening their curriculum offerings and student support services or expanding enrichment and extracurricular opportunities. We are proud of our Catholic schools' long and strong history and the outstanding work accomplished each day by those who lead, teach, and serve in our schools. While there may be fewer Catholic schools in our Archdiocese than there were in the past, the mission remains the same, and the energy and faith of those in our school communities give us many reasons for celebration and hope. Together we grow in knowledge and in our relationship with God.

The Catholic school's focus on faith and community is why families make sacrifices to provide their children with a Catholic education. It is why those who lead, teach, and serve in Catholic schools have chosen to be part of this mission and ministry. The enduring value of Catholic schools is that we are, have been, and will continue to be united in faith and community. What a gift that is! A gift that enriches not only our students but also those who are touched by the goodness that flows from this emphasis on faith and community. And so, we take time to celebrate the tremendous blessing of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Newark and throughout the nation, and to thank those who embrace and support our mission. We invite you to visit our website, www.catholicchoolsnj.org, and check us out on social media. You'll find many reasons to celebrate our Catholic schools!

God bless,

Rev. Stephen Fichter, Ph.D.
Episcopal Vicar of Education

Barbara Dolan
Superintendent of Schools

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTER

171 Clifton Avenue · Post Office Box 9500 · Newark · New Jersey 07104-0500 · (973)-497-4260