



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** *in the*  
**ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK**

Faith-Based.Future-Focused.

Dear Families,

This past year, our shared mission to educate the whole child was tested but never disrupted as our students learned resilience, fortitude, and resourcefulness. Now, as your family settles into the summer season, I encourage you not to let the summer interrupt your child's commitment to growth and learning.

Within the enclosed summer newsletter, you will find projects, activities, and programs to stimulate your child and continue to set them on the path to success. Additionally, you will see a message of gratitude to families who participated in the school survey this year.

As we prepare to return exclusively to our school buildings in September, we are excited to unveil and implement new opportunities for our students and faculty alike. Until then, we thank you for your ongoing support for the sacred mission of providing your child with a superior education infused with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Together, we are partners in making the world a better place, and I thank you for your collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Deegan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

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



## CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

After an unprecedented school year, it's more vital than ever to provide stimulating summer enrichment for your children. Together, we can help kids prepare for the school year ahead in a safe, fun way.

Below are some ideas and resources that will help you and your child have an eventful and enjoyable summer season.

### STEP INTO STEM

A study conducted by researchers at the University of California Irvine found that early math skills were the most consistently predictive measure of future academic success among K-5 students.

Alongside strengthening their math skills, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects can help boost your child's developmental and communication skills. Summer STEM projects are a great way to keep your kids engaged and learning throughout the summer.

During the summer, you can get your children to use math and science in a new light by introducing hands-on STEM activities that encourage their sense of experimentation and problem solving.

Please visit <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/stem/at-home> to bring the STEM excitement home this summer.



### EXPLORE THE CITY

Whether you're in the area or simply visiting, New York City is filled with historical landmarks, museums, and parks. Travel to new neighborhoods with your children for a stroll. From South Street Seaport in Manhattan, to 125th Street in Harlem, to Little Italy in Fordham, there is no end to the opportunities for your children.

Check out this site for all the museums listed within city limits: <https://www.ny.com/museums/all.museums.html>.

Summer is also about being active. Check out *Timeout's* article — <https://www.timeout.com/new-york-kids/things-to-do/summer-activities-for-kids> — for the best summer activities for kids to do in New York City.



## SUMMER 2021



### EMBRACE THE ARTS

Encourage your child to express themselves creatively by documenting the summer through either a written journal or video. Have them share or act out their favorite entries with the rest of the family every week and follow us @ArchNY\_Schools on Twitter for creative writing prompts throughout the summer.

As part of our ongoing family engagement, we are excited to announce that the Archdiocese now has a resident storyteller: the famous Jonathan Kruk!

We will have two virtual stories for our families emailed over the summer. Jonathan will also be joining us next year in our schools, offering educational opportunities for students, families, and even teachers to create their own stories and enact classics such as the "Night before Christmas" or "Story of St. Patrick."



## FILM DISCUSSION

As your child watches different television shows and movies this summer, you can practice critical thinking skills afterwards. Launch conversation with the following prompts:

1. Summarize the movie in five sentences.
2. What surprised you about this movie? What did you find interesting?
3. What themes could you pick out?
4. Which character did you relate to the most and why?

Has your household watched *The Chosen* yet? This multi-season series introduces the life of Jesus and the Gospels in a way that's entertaining and accessible for children and families. After watching an episode, take a few minutes for group sharing.

Playing online games is fun for kids, but not everyone is there to play. Parents, learn how to protect your children from sexual predators at [fbi.gov/itsnotagame](http://fbi.gov/itsnotagame).

**FBI** FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## THANK YOU



Thank you to all the families who completed this year's family survey. We appreciate you sharing valuable feedback on how we can continue to improve our Catholic schools

### FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Over six thousand families completed this year's survey

# +6K

### WHAT YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



**STRONG ACADEMICS**

**CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



**CARING TEACHERS & STAFF**

### WHAT WE HEARD ARE WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

More extracurricular opportunities  
More in-class hands-on experiences

## FOLLOW US FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES ON OUR SCHOOLS

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