



*March 19, 2020*

*Dear Kingston Catholic Families,*

*Hello! If I walked into most of our students' classrooms last week and said, "Who would like 5 weeks off?" almost every hand would have gone flying up. What a difference a week can make! I know this time is different for all of us. Together, we will find our way through this challenge and come out wiser, stronger, and closer to God.*

*I know that some of our students are nervous right now about getting sick. Please remind them that they have wonderful adults around them who love them and will keep them safe. As parents, grandparents, and guardians, you have been doing that for a long time now! Please be sure to encourage them to give a voice to their fears and doubts, and remind them that while this may feel a bit unsettling, this, too, will pass and we will all return to KCS together.*

*In the meantime, on Monday we will officially begin on-line distance learning. I know what hard workers our students are, and have no doubt that we can do this! It may not be easy or comfortable at first; we will have frustrations, and challenges. We will need to make adjustments. Team KCS is here and ready to help. Be sure to help your child check his/her Google Classroom daily for new assignments and activities. If you have questions, concerns, or are encountering difficulty, please reach out to your teachers. They are just an email away.*

*Have fun while we are all home, help your children keep on top of their studies, stay safe, and remember that we are all in this together. You may not see us...but your KCS team is right here! If you have questions for me, please email me at [jill.albert@archny.org](mailto:jill.albert@archny.org). I miss you and your children and hope to see you soon!*

*We got this,*

*Mrs. Albert*



## Let's talk about it!

The following links provide tips for talking with children about COVID-19 and change.

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/parenting/coronavirus-kids-talk.html>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/our-thriving-children/201404/the-kids-are-alright-they-don-t-change>

<https://www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources/helping-children-deal-with-change-and-stress>

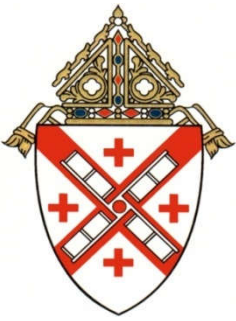
<https://afineparent.com/positive-parenting-faq/cope-with-change.html>



KCS re-opens remotely on Monday on Google Classroom for students in grades K-8!

Parents, please log into your child's Google Classroom before 8:00am Monday morning to ensure you are able to do so.

Directions can be found under Parent Resources on our website [www.Kingstoncatholic.org](http://www.Kingstoncatholic.org). If you need assistance, please email [KCTech@kingstoncatholic.org](mailto:KCTech@kingstoncatholic.org). We will be happy to help you!



# 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

March 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Office of the Superintendent of Schools continues to be proactive in taking the necessary steps to address the ongoing impact of this unprecedented health crisis on your family, specifically your child(ren)'s Catholic education. Thank you for your support, understanding and patience as we navigate these troubling days together.

In keeping with our commitment to provide you with updated information during this evolving situation, I would like to address several pressing topics:

- 1) As a result of last week's announcement to close our Catholic schools, teachers provided a week's worth of home-based learning information and study material. Given the extended time our schools will now remain closed, our Office of Teaching and Learning is working closely with regional leaders and instructional staff to plan for continuity of learning for your children in the weeks ahead. To best ensure clear communication of a variety of educational resources, you will be contacted soon to share some information regarding your students' access to technology at home. Our regional and school leaders are working to share quality educational materials that recognize our students' diverse needs and interests across all grade levels. **Our teachers will begin sharing direct guidance with families beginning Monday, March 23rd.**
- 2) In light of the fact that school buildings will be closed through April 20th, 2020, I recognize that questions are being raised regarding tuition. We are actively working to find ways to provide some relief and support for you and your family, while ensuring that our school communities can come through this together. I recognize that your family may have immediate financial challenges to address. **To ease that burden, I have suspended late fees on all accounts for payments due March 10th and onward.** If your family is in crisis, please contact your school principal. While we cannot solve every problem, we will certainly attempt to connect you with resources that can help during this challenging time.
- 3) We will make available case workers, counselors and social workers through our [ADAPP Program](#) to provide guidance for families who may need assistance during this time. More information on these services will be sent in the coming days.
- 4) All students in New York City, regardless of family income or free/reduced lunch status, will be eligible to receive free Grab-and-Go lunches at any New York City Department of Education public school feeding sites. For students outside of NYC, we will have posted on our website feeding locations as we receive them by local public school districts. As these pick up locations are activated, please see go to [our website for more information.](#)
- 5) Lastly, just as Christ calls us by name our Catholic schools' devoted principals and dedicated teachers call your child by name every day. They know their strengths and opportunities for growth. They know where they are academically and where they need to be. **With New York State Test scheduled to commence next week, I notified the Governor and State Education Department our Catholic elementary school students will not participate in NYS Test Program this year.** You know far better than I do, our students, your children, are much more than test score evaluations can indicate. With that said, formative data is important, and our teachers continue to utilize NEWA MAP Data, which provides assessments three times a year. In medical terms: It's a vital check that our teachers use to keep the pulse of our child's learning.

- 6) For information on all of the above issues, and all things related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) crisis, the best resource will always be [www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org](http://www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org).

We recognize that life for all of us has changed for the foreseeable future, and at this time of national crisis, it is important we stay connected as a community of faith as we work together on behalf of the children. My office will endeavor to be available and to answer your questions in a timely and respectful way. Over the coming days and weeks, information will be shared as quickly and as completely as possible, while striving first and foremost for accuracy.

Let me end my note to you today, on the feast of our Patron of this Archdiocese, St. Patrick with his breastplate. It is my prayer for you, your children, and for all of those in our city, state, nation and ultimately world as we confront the challenges among us.

Sincerely,



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

*Christ in my body and my mind,  
Christ high and low, before, behind,  
Christ on my left, Christ on my right,  
Christ in the day, Christ in the night,  
Christ in the hearts of all mankind.  
Christ in the mouth of every friend,  
Christ in the comforts that amend,  
Christ in the eyes that look on me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my plea.  
Christ, the beginning and the end.  
~St. Patrick*