ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 20, 2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 21: PD Day (no school)
March 27: New Principals' Meeting
(St. John the Apostle)

March 31: ARK Assessment begins April 1: Elementary Assistant Principals' Meeting (St. Rose of Lima, 9:00-12:00)

April 4: Early Dismissal (Staff PD) **April 11:** Principal Self-Appraisals Due

April 19-20: No School (Holy Thursday, Good Friday) April 20: Easter Sunday April 21-25: Easter Break Dear Principals,

We are now in the fourth quarter of the school year. While it may seem as though the end of the school year is quickly approaching, we still have many weeks of teaching and learning ahead of us. It is important to make the best use of every minute of every day for the good of our educational mission!

Several principals have contacted us recently regarding students who may not meet the requirements to be promoted to the next grade. Remember that our policies generally do not favor retaining a student in the same grade for consecutive years, as there are academic and social costs to such an action. If a student does not meet the academic or attendance requirements for promotion, it is often better to ask the student to leave the school vs. holding them back in the same grade. A notable exception to this policy relates to early education (PreK and K); in such cases, we strongly favor having students repeat a grade if they are not ready. If you have questions about retention of students or feel a student in grades 1-12 needs to be retained in grade, please contact Dr. White (elementary) or Dr. Edwards (secondary) to discuss.

In addition, I know that some principals are facing a variety of personnel issues. Remember that our policies require principals to contact Lisa Pinto and/or me before making any decisions regarding non-renewal of employees for next year. Please make certain to contact us before any decision is finalized and communicated. We want to make certain that all necessary steps have been followed and that you are properly supported.

As always, feel free to contact us about any issue as needed. We are here to support you!

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

ACCREDITATION UPDATE (Elementary):

The Annual Reports for Continued Accreditation (ARCA) were due in Accreditrac in mid-February for schools in accreditation cycles 1, 2, 4, and 5. If you need a copy of your school specific ARCA Guide, please email Dr. LaTonya White (lwhite@theadom.org). Please contact Mary Camp (mcamp@flacathconf.org) or Dr. White if you have any questions.

CERTIFICATION:

PMP Deadline: May 1, 2025

Please make sure candidates are on-track for completion by the deadline. Completed portfolios should be retained at the school. Digital copies of the portfolio (pp. 9-27 & CEAPs) should be emailed to <u>teacher.certification@theadom.org</u> by **Monday, May 5, 2025**. Please make sure the teacher's name, FDOE#, and all required signatures are included.

SALES SOLICITATIONS:

Principals and other administrators are often contacted via email and phone by companies wishing to increase sales. During such outreach, some vendors have mentioned that Dr. Rigg or other Archdiocesan officials told them to contact you, were using their products, etc. Please be aware that such salespeople do not have permission to use the names of Archdiocesan officials, nor do we necessarily endorse their products. If we recommend or require a product or service, we will inform principals directly.

STEP INTO HISTORY - COMPETE FOR A CAUSE (Middle and High Schools):

Catholic schools are invited to participate in the Inaugural European History Carnival, a one-of-a-kind educational event that combines academic excellence with a greater purpose. On April 7th for Middle Schools and April 8th for High Schools, Sunset Place will be transformed into a living historical experience, where students will engage with legendary figures, explore pivotal eras, and bring history to life. What makes this event even more special is that all proceeds from the festival will directly support the charitable causes of the Archdiocese of Miami, ensuring that your participation contributes to meaningful initiatives within our community.

Designed around the **College Board's AP European History curriculum**, this immersive event allows students to **step beyond textbooks** and into the heart of history.

Students will have the opportunity to **showcase their knowledge and creativity** in exciting academic competitions:

Monday, April 7th – Middle School European History Olympics
Topics: Medieval Europe, Renaissance Origins, The Reformation, Age of Exploration, European Geography (Ideal for 6t
& 7th graders)
💼 Tuesday, April 8th – High School European History Olympics & Spoken Poetry Competition
Topics: AP European History Curriculum up to Period 3 (For students taking AP Euro & European History)

Spoken Poetry Competition – Students will showcase their talents in English, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, celebrating the beauty of European languages through poetry and performance.

This event is more than a competition—it's an opportunity to create real impact while celebrating academic achievement. �� Olympic champions will not only win medals but also select the charitable causes within the Archdiocese of Miami that they would like to support. We Medals will be presented by the Consul Generals of Spain, Italy, Portugal, and England, adding a prestigious international honor to our student champions.

P Event Details:

- Limited to 50 classes Apply early!
- ♦ \$12 per student
- Optional Medieval Lunch Plan: \$15 per student
- Registration closes Friday, March 28th
- Secure your spot now: CarnivalEU.com/Olympics

This is an opportunity for students to **learn, compete, and leave a lasting impact**—both academically and within our community. If you have any questions, please reach out via **email** or call **786-854-2200**. History isn't just something we study—it's something we live and use to serve others. I look forward to seeing you at the European History Carnival!

STEP UP SCHOLARSHIPS - REMINDERS

- April 1, 2025 Quarterly Funds come to SUFS from DOE
- Starting in Q2, SUFS began collecting overpayments of tuition and fees (TFs) for the 2024-2025 school year. You can review these overpayments in your EMA Billing report the status will show "Receivable."
- The guidelines for the Agreed Upon Procedures for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years have now been published. https://www.stepupforstudents.org/schools-and-providers/agreed-upon-procedures/
- Tuition and Fees/ Enrollment Process https://youtu.be/ghRnICOu9fl?si=CS TZIQoH0Mj4CaW

TERRA NOVA UPDATE (Elementary):

DRC will be hosting the FCC: Data Validation/Corrections Training for School Test Coordinators **Tuesday, March 25 @ 1pm**. You should have received an email reminder, and the Teams link to join from Christine Kirk on 03/18/25. This session will cover the process to complete the FCC Data Validation and Corrections. Please share this with your Testing Coordinators. The session will be recorded if you and/or your coordinator are not able to join. The Data Validation Window is March 28, March 31 – April 1. The FCC Milestone Calendar may be found in the DRC Portal – General Information – select documents – show documents – go to page 3.