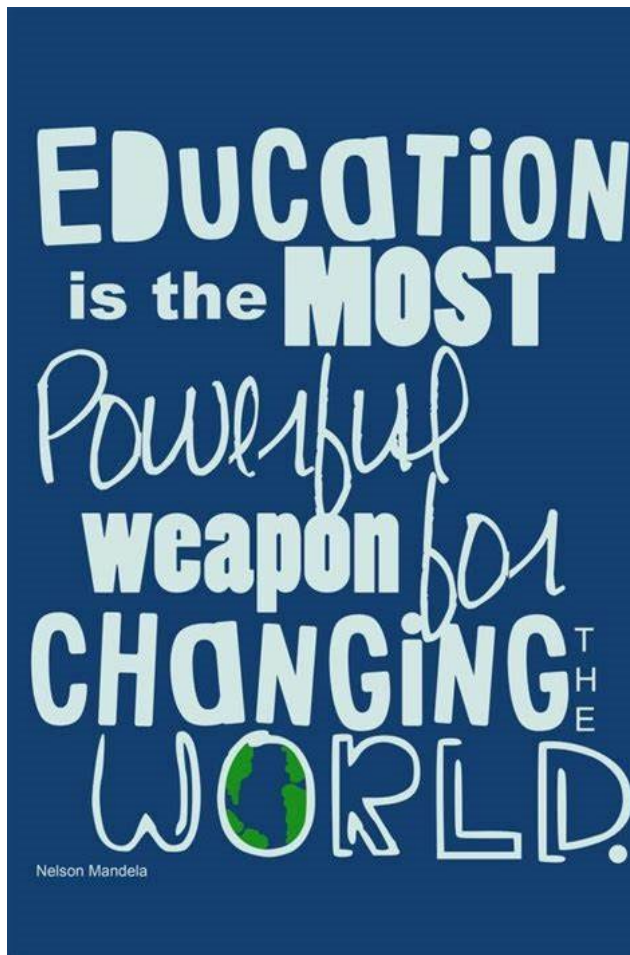

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 28, 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **October 6:** ADOM Professional Development Day (Please make sure that everyone is registered for the appropriate PD by Monday, October 2. Lunch counts need to be confirmed.)
- **October 12:** Principal Meeting at St. Thomas Aquinas High School (8:45-2:15)
- **October 18:** End of the First Quarter; Deadline for Virtus Module/Discussion for School Employees (see below).
- **October 28:** Catechetical Conference at Archbishop McCarthy High School
- **Nov 1:** Solemnity of All Saints
- **November 9-11:** FCC Administrator Conference at the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach Hotel
- **November 28:** Giving Tuesday #GiveCatholic for #GivingTuesday2023!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear School Leaders,

We are now over a month into the school year! I hope the year has been successful for you and your school so far. As we complete the month of September, remember that you (and/or your delegates) should be regularly observing teachers using our new Teacher Observation Tool. The formation of our teachers through observations is a critical part of any principal's role. If you have any questions or difficulties in using the new tool, please contact Brenda Cummings at bcummings@theadom.org.

I am looking forward to our upcoming System-Wide Professional Development Day on Oct. 6. Information about this day is being released separately. In addition, I look forward to seeing you at our next Principals' Meeting on Oct. 12. It is always a pleasure to participate in the ongoing training and development of our Catholic school educators!

Sincerely,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Miami
[ADOM :: Education \(miamiarch.org\)](http://ADOM::Education(miamiarch.org))

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE: SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: would like to share with you two documents regarding our Teacher Workshop Program (for teacher certification needs) and our Graduate and Doctoral programs.

Here is a link to our Teacher Workshop Website for even more information <https://www.flsouthern.edu/admissions/adult-graduate/continuing-education/florida-teacher-workshops>

If you have teachers with provisional/temporary certificates and are working to obtain a professional certificate, we can help. We also offer Teaching students with disabilities - EDU 2210 (2 cr.) for teachers needing their ESE requirement for recertification. If you have any questions or would like more information or hard copies of the TWS Brochure, please email wbrackman@flsouthern.edu or visit [Teacher Workshops at FSC](#) for additional information.

CERTIFICATION COORDINATORS: Please refer to the **attached document** for updates on how to request Verification of Employment, Practical Experience in Teacher, Certification Renewal Requests, and RML Updates. You will no longer send these requests to teacher.certification@theadom.org.

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH: Established in 1990 by the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States, National Black Catholic History Month celebrates the long history, the contributions, struggles, and proud heritage of black (especially African-Americans) Catholics. NBCHM coincides with the feasts of All Saints, All Souls, St. Martin de Porres, the birth of St. Augustine, and the death of Zumbi of Palmares.

Like many other Americans, Black Catholics have endured slavery, economic injustice, public brutality, and many forms of prejudicial mistreatment by the Catholic Church. Nonetheless, many, if not most black Catholics have persevered in loving and practicing their faith. Famous American Black Catholic include the following candidates for Sainthood:

- Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853), the former slave and philanthropist who is buried in New York's Saint Patrick's Cathedral.
- Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862), from New Orleans, a descendant of slaves who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family.
- Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman F.S.P.A.
- Venerable Mother Mary Lange, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.
- Venerable Father Augustus Tolton.
- Servant of God Julia Greeley.

Schools should plan appropriate academic and celebratory activities to highlight the lives and ministries of these and other black Catholics. The archdiocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministry will sponsor the annual Black Catholic History Month Mass on Saturday, November 4, 2023 (Venue TBD), and the NBCHM Luncheon and Awards Presentation on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at St. Thomas University.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 through October 15. Throughout this period, across the nation, we highlight and celebrate the tremendous contributions of Hispanic citizens to American culture, society, industry, business, innovation, and so forth. Schools should plan and implement events and activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month such as thematic Eucharistic Celebrations, art contests, pictorials, presentations by guest speakers, local school Hispanic festivals, student presentations, targeted lessons, etc. Information and resources may be accessed at the following web addresses. A Proclamation on National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2023 | The White House National Hispanic Heritage Month (United States) - Wikipedia Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 - United States Department of State

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT: Broward and Miami-Dade administrators and educators can submit partial travel reimbursement under Title IIA in the state. For more information about approved conferences and travel reimbursement, please visit: [Conference Travel Reimbursement \(google.com\)](#)

REACHING SOULS THROUGH SOLES: A group of Catholic high school students are leading a special mission project for the 65th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Miami called Reaching Souls through Soles. This special project aims to provide over 2,000 students in two schools in La Romana, DR with a new pair of shoes. These student ambassadors are asking for our help to make a direct and significant impact on the lives of these needy students in the DR by making a \$25 donation to sponsor a new pair of shoes for them. In the process, they encourage you to send a "message of hope" to the student you sponsor. Both the shoes and message of hope will be delivered to the students in the DR in October. Sponsor a student today: www.adomdevelopment.org/soles This effort will be ongoing until Oct. 7, 2023. If you have questions, you can contact (305) 762-1053 or development@theadom.org.

READING PLUS: Reading Plus/DreamBox (Elementary Schools): Does your school use Reading Plus (or DreamBox Reading)? Be aware that this program includes reading content that is problematic for our Catholic mission. If you use this program, please review reading materials carefully and address concerns to Reading Plus. If they are unable to change the content, you may need to seek out other programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Many family scholarships were funded yesterday. Schools can go into EMA today and submit invoices for those students. We encourage your schools to do this as soon as possible because once it is complete, Step Up can begin the funding process. Additionally, be aware that several schools have enrolled students in Pre-K in EMA. A Pre-K student cannot be enrolled and invoiced as a private school student. Step Up has communicated this to schools many times throughout the summer.

Step Up regional managers will begin calling schools this week and asking them to unenroll any students that are enrolled in Pre-K. If a child has FES-UA and the school accepts VPK or School Readiness, the student can be billed in the provider section of EMA. Directions about how to do this were shared in the Office Hours email from Step Up on Sept. 23.

If you have questions about scholarships, please contact Beatriz Ramirez or Step Up directly. If you are experiencing significant financial difficulties due to delays in the release of scholarship funds, please contact Dr. Rigg.

TERRA NOVA WEBINARS/LINKS: **Link to Recording:** Friday testing update for FCC (Introducing TerraNova NEXT), September 22, 2023

<https://www.brainshark.com/drc/vu?pi=zGCzQ6sk8zJECIz0>

Link to TerraNova NEXT Sample Items:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XW-4-JurBIP4UySQKezRM1Liumx_nxXi?usp=drive_link

Link to TerraNova NEXT and DRC BEACON Online Tools Training (Online Practice Test):

<https://wbte.drcedirect.com/TR/portals/tr/ott1?index=1&adminId=593518>

TerraNova NEXT Training website: <https://terranovanexttraining.com/>

DRC BEACON Training website: <https://www.drcbeacontraining.com/>

VIRTUS: Child Protection Module – Important Reminder: As announced in previous emails, remember that all school employees (teachers and staff, part and full-time) must complete the Safe Boundaries for Adults module in Virtus and participate in a follow-up discussion/workshop with the school staff. This should be completed no later than Wednesday, Oct. 18. Please contact Mary Ross Agosta or Jan Rayburn if you have any questions.