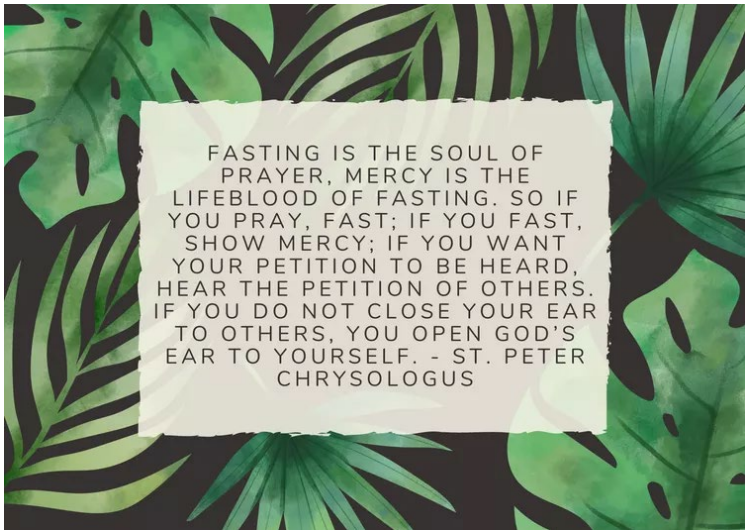


ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 3, 2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 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; Elementary Budgets Due
April 19-20: No School (Holy Thursday, Good Friday)
April 20: Easter Sunday
April 21-25: Easter Break

Dear Principals,

This is a very active time in the politics of both state and national education. The state legislature is currently in session and considering several bills that impact non-public schools. While nothing would drastically change our scholarship programs, we are nevertheless following all bills very carefully, working with the Florida Catholic Conference in Tallahassee. Similarly, we are following the various changes underway with the US Department of Education in Washington. As of now, none of the changes are impacting federal funds that benefit our students (e.g. Titles I-IV, IDEA, etc.), but changes are rapid and occurring daily. My hope is to inform you of major changes as they occur. This will certainly be a focus of our upcoming Principals' Meeting on May 1.

It is perhaps fitting that this period of change and uncertainty occurs during the Season of Lent. This is a time of prayer and reflection as we prepare for the resurrected Christ. All of our Catholic schools are in my prayers during this long approach to Easter and Easter Break.

May the hope of the resurrected Christ sustain us!

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

ASSESSMENT OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE (ARK):

We hope the administration of the Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) is going well. Remember to contact Dr. LaTonya White (lwhite@theadom.org) if you have any questions or issues. You can also contact ARK directly at 888.985.1324 or help@arktest.org.

2025 CAREER FAIR:

Do you need teachers or other school staff? Cardinal Gibbons is hosting an ADOM Career Fair on Saturday, April 12th from 10:00-1:00. If you would like to send recruitment representatives from your school, email Isabel Molina at igmolina@theadom.org. Please include the names and email addresses of the representatives who will attend.

ESSAY CONTEST – RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND POLARIZATION (Secondary Schools):

The USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Catholic Education and Our Sunday Visitor Institute, is hosting a religious liberty essay contest for high school juniors and seniors. The first-place essay will be published in *Our Sunday Visitor*, and the author will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. Learn more at www.usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay.

BLUE MISSIONS AND STREAM CERTIFICATION:

BLUE Missions School Program Support for STREAM Certification: Interest Survey for Educators

BLUE Missions, a Miami-based 501c3, is dedicated to advocating for a world where there is water for all, forever. We inspire young people

to lead the way in building a water-secure future, aligned with the call of ***Laudato si'*** to care for our common home as part of our moral responsibility. Please see below some programmatic support they can facilitate for schools

Please complete the [BLUE School Survey Program Support Interest Survey for Educators](#) that outlines Professional Learning (PL) Sessions and experiences aligned to *Laudato si'* and STREAM certification that are available for your school. PL Sessions can be customized for *one hour or full day sessions*. **Note: Standards-aligned 1-Hour Professional Learning sessions are available for FREE.** Fees apply to Full Day PL sessions as well as outdoor field trips and abroad service experiences.

STEP UP - Agreed Upon Procedures – [Presentation Slides, Recording](#)

A full copy of the Agreed Upon Procedures may be found by [clicking here](#).

TERRA NOVA UPDATES (Elementary):

DRC has confirmed that the official spring 2025 scores and Interactive Reports will be available in the DRC portal on April 14 and paper score reports should arrive in schools two weeks thereafter. The next webinar training is scheduled for April 29 from 1:00pm-3:00pm focusing on score interpretation and navigating Interactive Reporting. Keep watch for a calendar reminder from Christine Kirk.