

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to Dr. Denise Aloma, principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School, for being named a recipient of the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership by the US Department of Education! You will recall that St. Thomas was named a Blue-Ribbon school. Each year, the USDOE selects a handful of truly outstanding principals from Blue Ribbon Schools for this award. Dr. Aloma was among only nine recipients this year and the only high school principal selected.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Principals,

Happy National Catholic Schools Principal Day! Today we celebrate the tremendous dedication, expertise, and faith of our Catholic school leaders. It is fitting that this day comes one week before Thanksgiving. I am enormously thankful for you and the innumerable ways that you support Catholic education at your school. Thank you for accepting the call to Catholic education, and for continuing to live out this vocation every day!

I hope you have a chance to rest and recharge during the coming week.. Please be aware that the OCS will remain open Monday-Wednesday of next week (Nov. 21-23) and then close Nov. 24-25. I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 9!

Yours in Christ

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

Athletic Director Meetings (Elementary ONLY): All meetings will be held at Pace High School.

- December 2, 2022 @ 1PM
- March 17, 2023 @ 9AM
- May 5, 2023 @ 1 PM

Black History Month: Thanks to each of you who supported, attended and participated in the National Black Catholic History Month mass, which was celebrated by His Excellency, Archbishop Wenski on November 5, 2022 at St. Stephen Protomartyr Catholic Church. It was wonderful to see school families and school employees among the participants. The mass was well-attended; the music was wonderful, and the Archbishop's homily was inspiring as always. Please remember the six African American candidates for sainthood in your prayers: Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Servants of God Mother Elizabeth Lange, Henriette Delille, Julia Greely, Father Augustus Tolton, and Sister Thea Bowman.

- **Upcoming Event:** On Saturday, November 19, 2022, the OBCM will sponsor the Annual Black Catholic History Month Luncheon at St. Thomas University. The featured speaker will be Principal Flordenis Brown of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-St. Richard Catholic School.

Federal Programs:

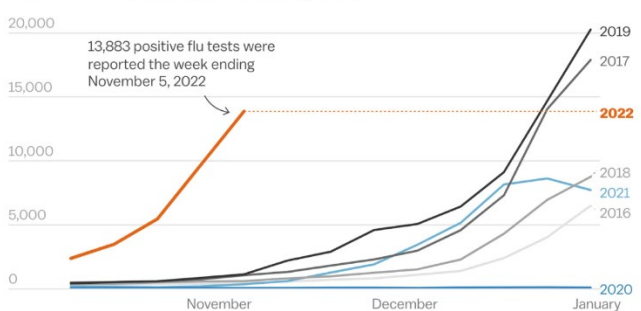
- **Broward:** You should have received an email from Roslyn Honyghan at Broward Schools this week with your Title I allocation amounts. The amounts given are for supplemental instructional support, parent engagement, and staff development. Please forward the email to bcummings@theadom.org. If you did not receive the email, let me know.
- **Dade:** On November 10, there was a Non-Public Schools Meaningful Consultation for Federal Entitlement Programs. The webinar is not posted yet but will be available at dadegetsgrants.net. The meeting was informative. I would recommend watching the video (when it is posted) if you were unable to attend.

Flu Season:

Flu is expected to be a major concern this winter as testing and number of cases increases. Flu shots are strongly encouraged. And COVID is not gone. A cruise ship just docked in Sydney, Australia with 800 passengers testing positive. Schools should continue to report COVID infections of students, faculty and staff to Sr Elizabeth.

Flu is spreading early and extraordinarily quickly

Positive influenza tests reported to CDC, 2016-2022



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Official Catholic Directory: Please note that the Official Catholic Directory is now in progress. High schools should have received a message from Sr Elizabeth regarding their data entry into the database. Elementary Schools should coordinate their data entry with the parish representative responsible for this task. **Deadline is November 30.**