

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER



On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain He will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
the web that is woven over all nations.
He will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
the reproach of His people.
He will remove the whole earth;
for the LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said;
“Indeed, this is our God;
we looked to Him, and He saved us!
This is the LORD to whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that
He saved us!”

Isaiah 25: 6-9



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Principals,

This week, Terra Nova testing is wrapping up in our elementary schools. While this can be a stressful time for students, I hope that Terra Nova provides you with important data on student achievement and growth in your school. Remember that your testing materials should be submitted punctually (by Monday, March 13) so that we can ensure an on-time delivery of assessment results. I hope Terra Nova testing has been a smooth and successful experience for you!

You will recall that all schools (elementary and secondary) will be participating in the Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) in the two weeks after Easter Break (April 17-28). If you have not already done so, I encourage you and your teachers to learn more about the ARK assessment on their website ([Home - Assessment of Religious Knowledge \(arktest.org\)](http://Home - Assessment of Religious Knowledge (arktest.org))). More information about ARK procedures will be forthcoming.

Enjoy your week!

Yours in Christ

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

Archbishop Thomas Wenski has issued the following statement in response to questions regarding granting a dispensation from eating meat on St. Patrick's Day 2023.

March 17th is observed by many as St. Patrick's Day. This year March 17 falls on a Friday of Lent, a day of fasting and abstinence. Many have asked for a dispensation from the obligation for fasting and abstinence in order to celebrate this saint who is the patron saint of Ireland and Nigeria.

As Archbishop of Miami, I grant the dispensation to anyone who wishes to observe the saint's day with a meal that includes meat but, at the same time, I encourage those who will avail themselves of this dispensation to consider substituting on that or another day the Lent Friday fast and abstinence with another suitable penance, work of charity, or prayer.

https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Article_archbishop-wenski-miami-grants-dispensation-meat-fast-st-patricks-day

ACCREDITATION: If you are in Years 1, 2, 4, or 5 of your accreditation cycle and have still not submitted the ARCA for this school year, please finalize that and submit it as soon as possible. This spring we will be reviewing your evidence and providing feedback.



The Division of Early Learning is investing a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) dollars in the Build a World Class Workforce Grants. Funds are being offered through multiple bonus and grant opportunities to recruit and elevate a world class early learning workforce.

Go to <https://www.elcmdm.org/providers/providers-corner/arpa-work-force-grants> to register and apply for the available bonuses and grants.

We will host information sessions to discuss the ARPA Build a World Class Workforce bonus and grants.

Meeting Schedule

- Friday, March 10 at 12:00 noon – English
- Monday, March 13 at 12:00 noon - Spanish
- Wednesday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. - English
- Monday, March 20 at 12:00 noon - Spanish
- Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m. - Spanish
- Monday, March 27 at 12 noon - English
- Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. - Spanish
- Wednesday, April 5 at 12:00 noon - English
- Wednesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. Spanish
- Wednesday, April 19 at 12:00 noon - English
- Wednesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. - Spanish

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84353565884?pwd=b2Vtanc2MG5Fd1kvOTIHcUtleWxIU09>

Meeting ID: 843 5356 5884: Passcode: 368814

ESE COORDINATOR MEETING: ESE Coordinators are invited to an open Question and Answer session with Gabriel Cambert which will be held virtually on Thursday, March 23rd at 10:00am. Please see the Teams meeting details below.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 216 541 859 038

Passcode: KQuu6M

FCC ADMINISTRATORS' CONFERENCE: The Diocese of St. Petersburg (DOSP) is pleased to host the FCC Administrators' Catholic Conference in Clearwater Beach, FL, November 13 -14, 2023. The conference will be at the Wyndham Grand, Clearwater Beach, FL. To better plan for the event, we ask that you **take a few moments to complete the survey by Wednesday, March 22** (if you have not already done so). Expected completion time is between 3-5 minutes. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact Dr. Ann Davis, Associate Superintendent at amd@dosp.org.

[FCC Administrator's Catholic Conference Pre-Planning Survey](#)

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS (BROWARD): This is a friendly PSW REMINDER. The PSW opened on February 23, 2023 and will remain open 24/7 until 4:00pm on Tuesday, March 27, 2023.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS (MIAMI-DADE): I wanted you to be aware that I submitted all the Title paperwork for participation for the 23-24 school year on Friday, March 3 to the county.

IDEA: Please review your student eligibility lists and contact parents of students who have expired evaluations with the county. If all those students become eligible again, we will double our proportionate share funds. A sample parent email is in the E-library to help facilitate outreach from the ESE Coordinator to parents of students with expired evaluations.

Students who have private evaluations but have never received an evaluation/eligibility determination, should also be referred to the county. The private evaluation will probably speed up the testing process, but it will not automatically grant them eligibility. Please be mindful that these students must also meet FLDOE's program eligibility requirements in addition to having the diagnosis (which usually reflect DSM V requirements) reflected on the private evaluation. Contact Gabriel Cambert (gcambert@theadom.org) for more support.

MARKETING WEBINAR: will take place on Thursday, March 9 from 3:30-4:30 PM. The focus of this webinar will be on Brand Standards and Identity. Remember that participation in marketing webinars this year is optional (but encouraged). Please also invite any staff or volunteers who assist you with marketing efforts.

If you have attended Marketing webinars this year, you should be receiving a link directly from the FACTS system. If you (or someone from your team) has not yet attended a webinar, you can register via this link: [Creating a Home Run Home Page \(on24.com\)](#)

MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE: Below is a recording of the last Mental Health Task Force meeting if you did not have the opportunity to attend.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yVRizZMuUovSLw7YwFRDHyXE94lBdUz/view?usp=drive_web

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FACULTY AND STAFF): RELIGION CLASSES

Adult Learning - Virtual Courses

Spring II 2023 Virtual Session

Registration: March 20-27

Virtual Course Dates: April 3 - May 26

Summer 2023 Virtual Session

Registration: June 5 - June 12

Virtual Course Dates: June 19 - July 28

Course List: http://adomvirtual.com/adult_learning.html

Questions? support@adomvirtual.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ELEMENTARY): Please share the following information with your faculty. I would REQUIRE some of your teachers attend.

The Archdiocese of Miami has ongoing webinars during the Spring Semester for elementary teachers. We wanted to make sure all schools had the registration link (below). The topics are: Standards Based Instruction, Reading Strategies for Differentiated Classrooms, Standards Based Grading, and Literacy Strategies Across All Content Areas.

Please forward this information to all teachers. These webinars are also available on-demand for those who cannot attend the live sessions.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4120691/A4A88FFA6AD73EB371D300AA32494541/4539066>

REDIKER: Please see the free online webinar details below. This webinar will explore the use of AdminPlus' built-in data import and export tools.

Leveraging the AdminPlus/Excel Connection

Thursday, March 9th at 1:00pm ET

Register to attend the online webinar here: <https://www.rediker.com/see-software/demos>

SR. JOHN NORTON, OP: Principals and other Catholic educators are invited to attend the Memorial Mass for Sr. John Norton, former principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School, on Saturday, April 1 at 10:30 AM. The Mass will be held in the gymnasium at St. Thomas Aquinas. See [ADOM :: Adrian Dominican Sister John Norton, 98 \(miamiarch.org\)](#) for more information. May she rest in God's peace!

SUFS-AGREED UPON PROCEDURES: To review procedures please refer to the link:

<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/schools-and-providers/agreed-upon-procedures/>

TERRA NOVA TESTING: InView/TerraNova3 testing should be done or almost done at your schools. Please pack your materials and schedule UPS pickup as soon as possible. **The last date for materials to leave your building is Monday, March 13th.** If, for whatever reason, you do not think you will meet this deadline, you must immediately contact Gabriel Cambert (gcambert@theadom.org).

Also be sure to start setting up the Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) portal for this upcoming testing window. This includes uploading/updating teachers, creating classes, uploading new students, as well as assigning students to classes and testing sections. Everything should be ready for testing before leaving for Easter break so that testing can happen smoothly after the break. Should you need support, please contact ARK:

- Weekly webinars to support your questions live. You must register to attend:
 - [Wednesday, 10AM Eastern Time](#)
 - [Thursday, 3PM Eastern Time](#)
- The live chat tool within the ARK data dashboard is staffed Weekdays 8AM-5PM.
- Email questions to help@arktest.org
- More help and videos are located at <http://www.arktest.org/help>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 21-March 10: TerraNova Testing window
- March 13: Last day to ship TerraNova answer documents
- Mental Health Counselor Meeting: Time: Apr 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM;
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83553893168?pwd=NytreStoWFYvY0FwRzVyKzIPNjN4QT09>
- Mental Health Task Force: Time: Apr 25, 2023 at 01:00 PM;
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88178979426?pwd=aWNYckpzZEx1L2o1V2Eva1lyS3ltUT09>
- Principals' Meeting: Apr 27, Archbishop McCarthy High School (schedule TBD)

DUE DATES:

- March 15: High School Budget template, Estimate Sheet and Sign Off form are due to OCS
- April 3: Elementary School Budget template and Sign Off form are due to OCS
- Prior to May 1: Any outstanding documents for scholarship compliance are due to FLDOE
- June 16: Contract/Employment letters are due to the OCS