

Back to School



HAPPY RETURN—As summer vacation comes to a close, students are preparing to return to the classroom and to time spent with peers on campus. In this section, Michael Deegan, superintendent of schools for the archdiocese, expresses gratitude for the collaboration his office has received amid the coronavirus pandemic, and middle-schoolers will soon make their way to a high school campus as Burke Catholic Academy opens in Goshen for sixth-to-eighth-graders. See also the calendars for elementary schools and high schools.

GOOD CHEMISTRY—

Students Eddie Morales and James Moore of Msgr. Farrell High School on Staten Island demonstrate a chemistry experiment for Cardinal Dolan during his visit to the school in October 2020. That day, the cardinal dedicated several new facilities on campus, including three renovated science labs.



MARY DIBIASE BLAICH

Fall Classes Will Be In-Person Only Where Students ‘Fully Experience’ the Culture and Ethos of a Catholic School

By **CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE**

Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of New York are committed to “two preeminent goals,” according to the archdiocesan superintendent of schools.

The first is “to keep every student and every adult in our schools healthy, safe and protected” and the second is “to reopen all of our schools, five days a week at 100 percent capacity,” said Michael Deegan in a July 28 interview with CNY.

Both measures were “committed to last year and we were able to successfully open in September of last year, and we continue to make the same commitment,” the superintendent said.

The Health and Safety Task Force of the superintendent’s office, Deegan said, continues to monitor the developments that are taking place nationally and locally relative to the coronavirus pandemic.

“As such, we remain in contact with government health professionals as we continue to prepare for the reopening of our schools in September,” he said.

“No later than the middle of August we will publish, as we did last year, our reopening plan document which outlines how we will fulfill our promise of keeping our children and adults healthy, safe and protected, and reopening our schools to be able to provide the excellent educational programs and services” for which the school system is known.

Throughout the last year and a half, the Health and Safety Task Force and the superintendent’s office “have remained committed to the science,” Deegan said, “but we have demonstrated a flexibility and a nimbleness in what we need to do as the pandemic has changed and how the virus has evolved.”

“We will make adjustments and modifications to whatever plan we formulate because that’s how we will ensure the health and safety of the adults and the children.”

“We are very optimistic and we are all looking forward to school reopening in September.”

Reopening being the operative word. “We are not going to be providing remote learning to children who choose to stay home in September,” the superintendent said.

“Our school doors are open for all of our children,” he said. “The reason that we are not going to be providing remote learning to any of our children is, we want them back in school.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



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Academy-Bound Middle-Schoolers Already a Welcome Addition to John S. Burke Catholic High Campus

By DAN PIETRAFESA

John S. Burke Catholic High School will begin a new era in the 2021-2022 school year by opening Burke Catholic Academy for middle school students that will nearly fill the building on its 62-acre Goshen campus to capacity.

The first full day of school for both the academy and the high school is Sept. 8.

"I think having the new students in the building will not only be incredible for us—a new opportunity for our administration and faculty—but our high school students are very excited because having a younger generation of students in the building will make them more responsible and will make them understand our mission more," said Janice Clark, high school and academy principal.

Burke Catholic Academy had 159 students, 57 coming from public schools, enrolled in late July for grades six through eight, and a waiting list existed for seventh-graders still hoping to enter the academy.

School officials were expecting between 75 and 90 students and one class for each grade during the academy's first year when the announcement of its formation came in February. With the add-



MARIA R. BASTONE

CAMPUS TOUR—Incoming eighth-grader Sophia Cuello, center, tours Burke Catholic Academy and John S. Burke Catholic High School in Goshen with her parents, Mercedes and Marcello Cuello, and Burke admissions director Tracy Sullivan July 20. Burke Catholic Academy for middle-school students is opening on the high school campus this coming school year.

ed students, each grade will have two classes.

With 340 students enrolled as of late July in the high school, the campus will be close to its capacity of 550 students.

"I'm super excited, especially for the academy," said Allie Gesztesi, a 17-year-old Burke Catholic rising senior and parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Goshen. "It'll make our family at Burke even bigger.

"It's going to be a great year."

John Douthit and Mrs. Clark will serve as president and principal of both the high school and middle school, respectively. They are two of the many school administrators, faculty and staff who attended Burke Catholic.

"It is incredibly exciting," Douthit said of the added middle school and student enrollment being higher than anticipated. "That's a testament to our team here. We have an incredible group that works here. No one measures their success by the dollars in their paycheck. They measure it by their commitment to their Catholic faith, their commitment to the children and the building. Our folks in the building have done an incredible job making sure we can be successful."

Liam Drumgoole, a 2016 Burke Catholic graduate, will teach math at the high school for a second year. He said he's "excited" about having the middle school students in the same building and offered why Burke Catholic is a great place for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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Catholic New York’s High School Open House Announcement pull-out section will appear in the center of our September 23rd issue. Thousands of families will be reading this issue. There’s no better place to advertise the date, time, location and directions to your school’s Open Houses than in our special issue.

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Burke Catholic...

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LEADERS—Principal Janice Clark and President John Douthit, administrators of both John S. Burke Catholic High School and Burke Catholic Academy in Goshen, are pictured on campus July 20.

students and teachers.

“Definitely the sense of community is a big part of it. I always felt welcomed there,” he said.

Burke Catholic dates to 1899 when it was known as St. John’s Academic School. In 1904, the school moved and became known as the Garr Institute, which remained the school’s name until it was renamed St. John’s High School in 1946.

The current school building opened with 400 students in December 1964 and was dedicated by Cardinal Francis Spellman in May 1965 with its current name of Burke Catholic. An addition to the school opened in 1982.

The middle school students will have their own wing in the building, but will share rooms such as art and music with the high school students. High school and middle school students will have the opportunity to participate together in school clubs and activities, and a modified sports program for middle-school children is being added.

A personalized education is offered, said Mrs. Clark. “So every student that walks into the building is not a number, they’re a person with a name.

“When parents leave here, often they tell us this was the best decision they ever made for their child.”

The school received assistance from the arch-

diocese to upgrade the building’s structure with new windows and a new roof, among other enhancements.

The school also has improved its campus by adding a new outdoor track and new bleachers in the gymnasium, and converting the library into a student union center.

“Our commitment to the parents is we’re going to hold your child accountable in the building, then you as a parent we’re asking to make a significant financial commitment to us but you get to hold us accountable,” Douthit said.

“Our challenge is delivering on what we spoke to our families about; it’s delivering on that accountability, delivering the great product, delivering of value to the middle school and high school students.”



PHOTOS BY MARIA R. BASTONE

TRACK MEETS ON CAMPUS—A track, pictured July 20, was renovated to give John S. Burke Catholic High School the opportunity to host track and field meets for the first time in 15 years on its 62-acre Goshen campus in 2019.

Bronx Catholic High Schools Announce 2021-22 Open Houses VISIT AND LEARN ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS!

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TACHS ID 217

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In Person: Saturday 10/30/21 • 11am-3pm

Virtual: Wednesday 11/03/21 • 7pm

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www.allhallows.org • 718-293-4545

TACHS ID 111

CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL

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Saturday 10/30/21 • 11am-2pm

Wednesday 4/27/22 • 6pm-8pm

www.fordhamprep.org • 718-637-7500

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MONSIGNOR SCANLAN HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday 10/16/21 • 11am-2pm

Wednesday 10/20/21 • 6pm-8pm

www.scalanhs.edu • 718-430-0100

TACHS ID 304

MOUNT ST. MICHAEL ACADEMY

Sunday 10/3/21 • 12pm-3pm

Information Night: 1/12/22 • 6pm-7:30pm

Spring Open House: 5/07/22 • 12pm-3pm

Virtual Tour on the Website:

www.mtstmichael.org • 718-515-6400

TACHS ID 114

PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

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6pm-8pm

In Person: Sunday 10/24/21 • 11am-2pm

Monday 10/25/21 • 6pm-8pm

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Saturday 1/8/22 • 10am-1pm

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TACHS ID 214

ST. CATHARINE ACADEMY

Virtual: Tuesday 9/21/21 • 6:30pm-7:30pm

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ST. RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Sunday 10/17/21 • 12pm-3:30pm

Information Session: Thursday 10/28/21

6pm-8pm

www.straymondhighschool.org • 718-824-5050

TACHS ID 115

**TACHS Exam - Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools is on Friday 11/05/21
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Cardinal Spellman High School • Thursday 9/23/21 6pm-8pm

Cardinal Hayes HS • Tuesday 9/28/21 6PM-8PM

2021-2022 Elementary Schools Calendar

AUGUST

23 TACHS Registration Opens

SEPTEMBER

6 Labor Day (Schools Closed)

8 First Day of School (All Regions)

27-10/15 MAP Fall Assessment Window Opens

OCTOBER

8 TACHS Deadline for Applying for Extended Time

11 Columbus Day (Schools Closed)

15 MAP Fall Assessment Window Concludes

24 TACHS Registration Deadline

NOVEMBER

1 Feast of All Saints (Schools Open)

5 End of Quarter 1 - TACHS Exam

11 Veteran's Day Observed (Schools Closed)

14-20 Discover Catholic Schools Week

16 Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday

25-26 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

14 Last Day to Complete TACHS Applicant Record 23-1/3 Christmas Break (Schools Closed)

JANUARY 2022

3 Christmas Break Ends (Schools Resume)

10 MAP Winter Assessment Window Opens

17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (Schools Closed)

21 March for Life, Washington D.C.

28 End of Quarter 2 MAP Winter Assessment Window Concludes

30-2/5 Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

FEBRUARY

1 Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday

1-5 Celebrate Catholic Schools Week Continues

21 Presidents' Day (Schools Closed)

MARCH

2 Ash Wednesday (Schools Open)

3 Catholic School Teacher Appreciation Day

17 St. Patrick's Day (Schools Open)

29-31 NYS ELA Exam (Paper-Based)

31 End of Quarter 3

APRIL

5 Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday

14 Holy Thursday (Schools Closed)

15 Good Friday (Schools Closed)

18 Easter Monday (Schools Closed)

18-22 Easter Vacation

26-28 NYS Math Exam (Paper-Based)

MAY

3 Catholic School Principal Appreciation Day

9 MAP Spring Assessment Window Opens

16-26 Regional 8th Grade Graduation Masses

25 Annual Principals' Meeting

26 Ascension Thursday (Schools Open)

27 MAP Spring Assessment Window Concludes

30 Memorial Day (Schools Closed)

JUNE

10 Earliest Day for 8th Grade Graduation

17 Earliest Day to end school based on four (4) snow days and all holidays listed on this calendar

* Spirituality Day will be in the Spring of 2022. Date and time to be determined.

*Please note that this is a generic, system-wide calendar. Check your school's calendar for all school-specific dates.



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2021-2022 Secondary Schools Calendar

AUGUST

23	TACHS registration Opens
28	SAT Exam

SEPTEMBER

6	Labor Day
7-10	School Opens
23	Bronx HS Fair at Cardinal Spellman-6-8PM
25	Manhattan HS Fair-Cathedral HS-12-2PM
28	Bronx HS Fair at Cardinal Hayes-6-8PM

OCTOBER

1	Census Closes
2	SAT Exam
8	TACHS Deadline to submit Extended Time Application
11	Columbus Day (Schools Closed)
13	PSAT Exam/SAT School Day
13	Westchester HS Fair at Resurrection School-4-7 PM
16	PSAT Exam
24	TACHS Registration Deadline
26	PSAT Exam
28	SAT School Day

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints Day (Option to Close)
1-5	TACHS Session number and time available at www.tachsinfo.com
5	Last Day to enter High School Choices.
5	TACHS Test Day for ADNY
6	SAT Exam
11	Veterans Day Observed (Schools Closed)
24-26	Thanksgiving Recess (Schools Closed)

DECEMBER

4	SAT Exam
8	Immaculate Conception (Option to Close)
14	Last Day to Complete TACHS Applicant Record
25	Christmas Day (Schools Closed)

JANUARY 2022

1	New Year's Day (Schools Closed)
17	Martin Luther King Day (Schools Closed)
19	HS Acceptance Admissions Notices Released.
21	March for Life
25-28	NYS Regents Exams
30	Catholic Schools Week Begins

FEBRUARY

1-5	Catholic Schools Week Continues
21	Presidents' Day (Schools Closed)

MARCH

2	Ash Wednesday (Schools Open)
2	SAT School Day
3	Registration Day for Catholic HS
12	SAT Exam
17	Feast of St. Patrick (Option to Close)
23	SAT School Day

APRIL

13	SAT School Day
14	Holy Thursday (Schools Closed)
15	Good Friday (Schools Closed)

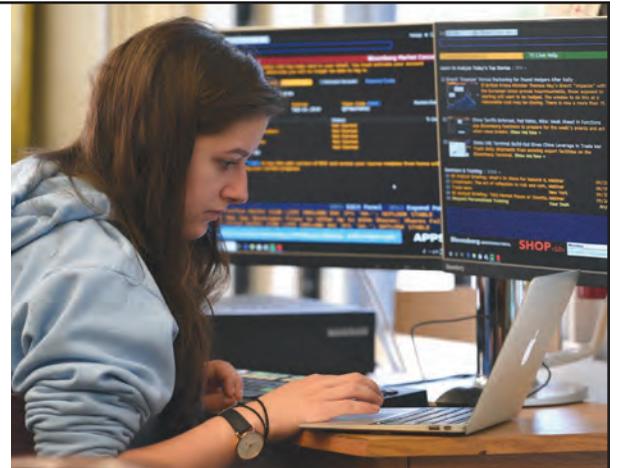
18	Easter Monday (Schools Closed) TBD
	Easter Recess (Decided Locally)
26	SAT School Day
TBD	Senior Masses

MAY

3	Catholic Schools Principal Appreciation Day
26	Feast of the Ascension (Option to Close)
30	Memorial Day (Schools Closed)

JUNE

4	SAT Exam
15-24	NYS Regents Exams



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Fall Classes...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

“That’s where the children can fully experience the culture and the ethos of a Catholic school. And they can be supported, nurtured and cared for physically in the school building itself. And since we’re working to keep those buildings safe and healthy, we can provide that and want that.”

Enrollment projections are up from this time last year, Deegan said, and “88 percent of families who were new” to the Catholic school system in the archdiocese last year have re-registered.

Enrollment, acceptances and admissions are ongoing. The superintendent of schools encouraged families to access the website catholicschoolsny.org, and examine the school finder feature. “That can help them, and then we can support them in

their search for a Catholic school.”

Catholic identity in the schools is an integral part of the education children receive, and that is accomplished in collaboration with parents and parish priests.

“The very fundamental reason and mission that Catholic schools exist is to pass on the faith to the next generation of children,” Deegan said. “The way we do that is to have our children and their parents fully engaged in the life of their home parish.”

Catholic schools, he continued, “support that, encourage that, expect that and provide the support to do it.”

The one thing that defines Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York and Catholic schools across the country is, “we keep our promises to our families when they send their children to a Catholic school.”

The one thing that defines Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York and Catholic schools across the country, Deegan said, is, “We keep our promises to our families when they send their children to a Catholic school.”

That, he added, “is a defining characteristic of Catholic schools here in the Archdiocese of New York because we put the needs of children before the needs of anyone else or anything else.”

Two examples of promises kept are when children come back to school in September, they will be in a safe and protected environment “and we do everything we can to make sure that we fulfill that promise”; similarly, that an “academically superior education” will be provided to students. “Our assessments, our test scores and our graduation rates substantiate that what we say we do, we are doing, and the data supports it.”

“As superintendent,” Deegan concluded, “when I make decisions, my decisions are based solely on what is best for the child or what’s best for the children...”

“And that has been my guiding principle through this pandemic and frankly for as long as I’ve been superintendent.”

A defining illustration, Deegan explained, of why the Catholic school system of the archdiocese has been able to navigate the Covid-19 crisis “is that we are part of something so much bigger than ourselves—that we are, in fact, a part of the Catholic Church, that we are a part of the Archdiocese of New York, and that Cardinal Dolan in particular has committed to providing everything we need to fulfill our promises to our families.”

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Truss-Raising at Catholic U. Could Help Rebuild Paris Cathedral

By **PATRICIA ZAPOR**

The world watched in shock in April 2019 as flames devoured Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Eventually, burned roof sections collapsed in the Gothic landmark that was finally completed in 1345 after nearly 200 years of construction.

A little more than two years after the disaster, in the shadow of a landmark Catholic shrine in our nation's capital, teams of architects, carpenters, artisans and students—joined by one cardinal—slowly and gently pulled on rope lines to raise a painstakingly crafted roof truss that may help guide the builders who will replace Notre Dame's roof.

The event Aug. 3 on the grassy mall of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception as a backdrop, was



CNS/PATRICK G. RYAN, THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

FULL SUPPORT—A newly constructed full-scale truss is raised Aug. 3 at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Notre Dame de Paris Truss Project was organized by Handhouse Studio to reconstruct a roof truss like the Notre Dame Cathedral roof truss destroyed by fire in April 2019.

part of a collaboration to research, model and build a historically accurate full-scale version of Truss No. 6 from Notre Dame.

After months of preparation, the campus played host for two weeks to a 75-person crew that took logs transported from the mountains of Virginia, cut them into timbers and assembled the truss using tools and techniques employed nearly a millennium ago.

The project was modeled after a similar effort by the organization Charpentiers sans Frontières, or Carpenters Without Borders, which built a version of Truss No. 7 in 2020 to demonstrate that the traditional methods of carpentry are possible today as the cathedral is rebuilt. Twenty-five primary trusses support the main section of the cathedral's roof.

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington and Catholic University's chancellor, wore a hardhat as he joined the raising ceremony. He first blessed the crew and then lined up with them to

help hoist the 35-foot-high truss into its upright position on the lawn.

During a brief program afterward, Cardinal Gregory offered his gratitude to the people who came from across the country to volunteer on the project. In his prayer, he asked the gathered crowd to focus not just on the burned structure in Paris, but to remember the people "who make up the living Church."

The completed truss was disassembled, trucked across town and raised in public a second time on the National Mall Aug. 5. It then will be placed in the National Building Museum for display for at least several weeks.

Marie Brown was among those who watched

the fire in 2019, stunned. Before the flames were even extinguished, she was on the phone, strategizing about how to help rebuild it with others connected to Handhouse Studio, which she leads as executive director.

The Massachusetts-based educational nonprofit that organized the project in Washington, D.C., leads "adventurous hands-on projects...as a way to illuminate history, understand science and perpetuate the arts," according to its website.

Handhouse founders Rick and Laura Brown, Marie Brown's parents, and its board members, volunteers and friends pulled together the project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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MON. NOVEMBER 1, 2021
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Catholic U....

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

ect. It involved working with Catholic University's School of Architecture and planning and university staff.

Other partners included the National Building Museum; the National Park Service; Carpenters Without Borders, which was able to obtain original design drawings of the trusses; the Historic Preservation Training Center; Preservation Maryland; North Bennet Street School, a traditional crafts and artisan training school in Boston; and La Maison Luquet of Alsace, France, a traditional metal forger.

At the university, Tonya Ohnstad, interim associate dean for graduate students in the School of Architecture and Planning, took the lead with 14 architecture students who worked on the truss as a class.

"After a year of online classes, this was a way to get their hands back into making something," she said.

Student Eddie LaPointe said he enjoyed using axes to fashion the logs as he learned about timber framing.

Rob Duarte, a Handhouse board member, explained that the project went beyond simply recreating a historical piece of architecture for the sake of recreating it.

As an artist, Duarte said that understanding the how and the why of the techniques used to build the cathedral trusses "tells us a lot about how it was originally built, the history of archi-

ecture, about medieval architecture and specifically roofs."

The quest for accuracy in the project meant that down to the smallest detail, traditional techniques were followed, including that timbers were split on-site using tools and methods that would have been employed by carpenters 700 or 800 years ago. —CNS

TACHS Registration Opens Aug. 23

Registration for the 2021 Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools (TACHS) will open at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 23, and close Sunday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m.

TACHS is required for all eighth-grade students interested in attending Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Diocese of Rockville Centre the following year.

This fall, TACHS will be administered as an online, remote, at-home test. An examination fee of \$65 will cover a student handbook, test materials and score reporting of three choice schools.

The test will be administered in the Archdiocese of New York on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Information: tachsinfo.com.



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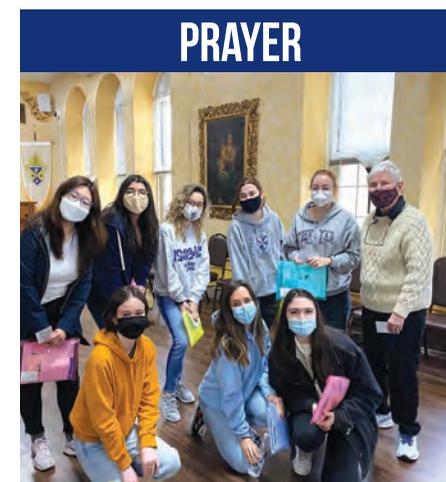
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