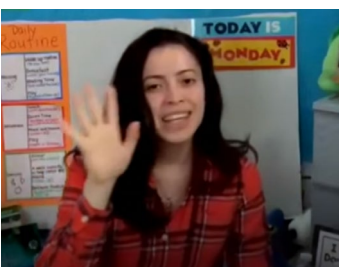


2020 Annual Report

Diocese of Brooklyn
Office of the Superintendent ~
Catholic School Support Services



2021 Year of Renewal
STRENGTHENING THE BONDS BETWEEN
SCHOOLS, PARISHES, AND OUR COMMUNITY





As we look forward to ***A Year of Renewal for Catholic Education***, we must consider all that has transpired during the 2019-2020 school year. The Catholic Academies and Parish Schools faced challenges that have never even been considered.

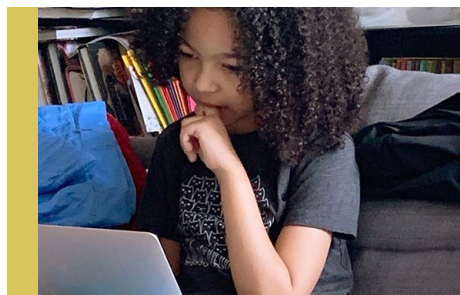
Despite these challenges, we were blessed to see the strength that shines through our administration, boards, teachers, and families.

We are stronger than ever and are prepared to engage in the next phase of building the foundation for Catholic Education for years to come.



19,147

Students are benefiting from Catholic education in our elementary Academies and Parish Schools*.



2,235

Students are receiving full-day vibrant, remote learning via The St. Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Program*.



6,463

Students are receiving meals through free and reduced lunch programs.*

*Census Day 2020



*"Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all cir-
cumstances;
for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus"*

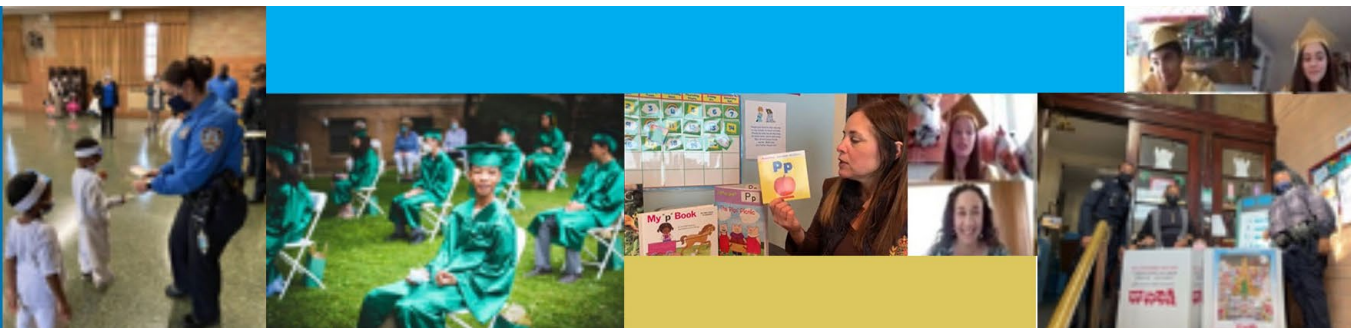
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.



Our Catholic Identity

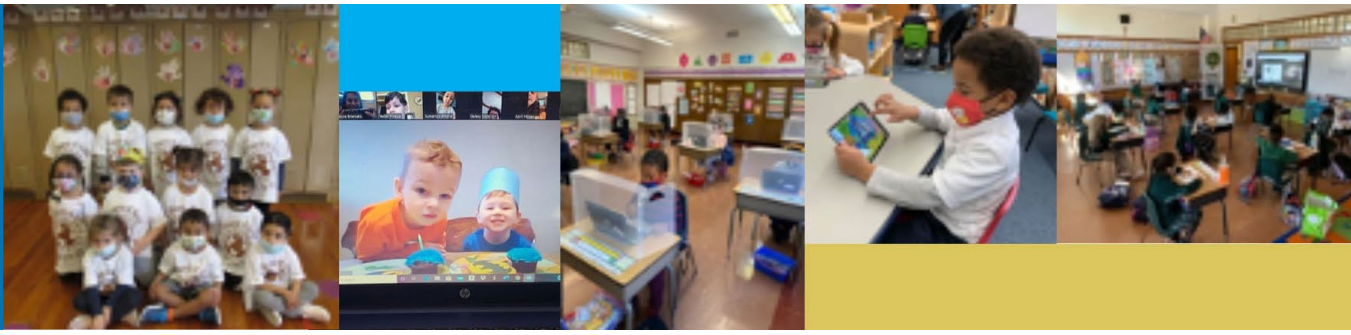
Rejoicing in Our Faith

- **73%** of Diocesan students are Catholic; an increase from past two years.
- Families are invited to attend virtual weekly Mass.
- As schools shifted to in-person learning in the fall, students begin to celebrate the Eucharist (socially distant) as a school community.
- Teachers are creative with online vibrant religious instruction and continue sharing the faith.
- Schools continued their mission to live by demonstrating the love of Jesus through hosting food drives, toy drives, and fundraisers to benefit local organizations.



Stronger Together

- Administrators and teachers worked to find creative and safe ways to celebrate graduation with graduation parades, socially distant outdoor graduations, and even Zoom graduations.
- Administration and teachers have worked to continue school events and traditions; adjusting them to meet health requirements and keep families safe.
- Virtual Christmas shows, Christmas light displays, socially distant Halloween parades, and Thanksgiving luncheons helped school communities maintain a sense of normalcy.



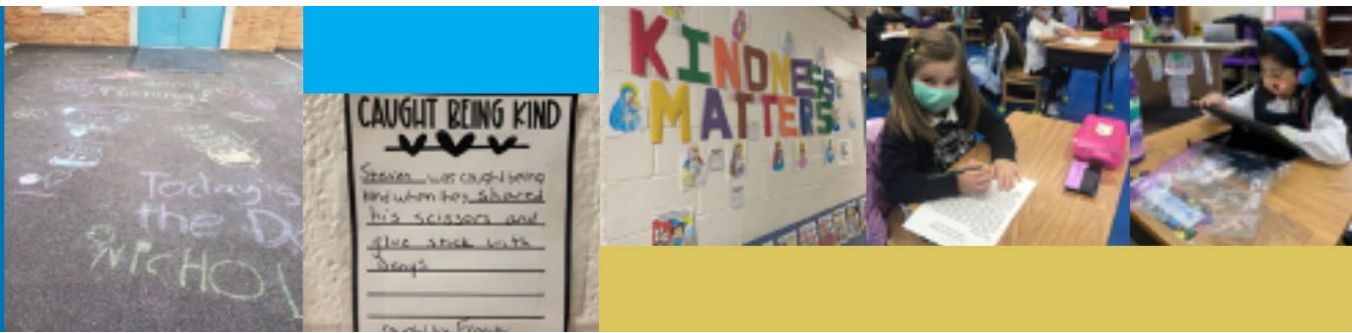
Academic Excellence

- Online learning was successfully implemented with daily student-teacher engagement.
- Teacher professional development specifically addressed the new norm of teaching in the virtual world.
- A new world of learning is developed with remote field trips, online STEM programs, virtual science experiments and virtual library access.
- Students are wrapping up iReady assessments to identify learning gaps caused by the pandemic and help teachers tailor their instruction to specifically address those areas.
- **3,500** additional students were given access to ipads and laptops that enabled them to continue learning safely at home.



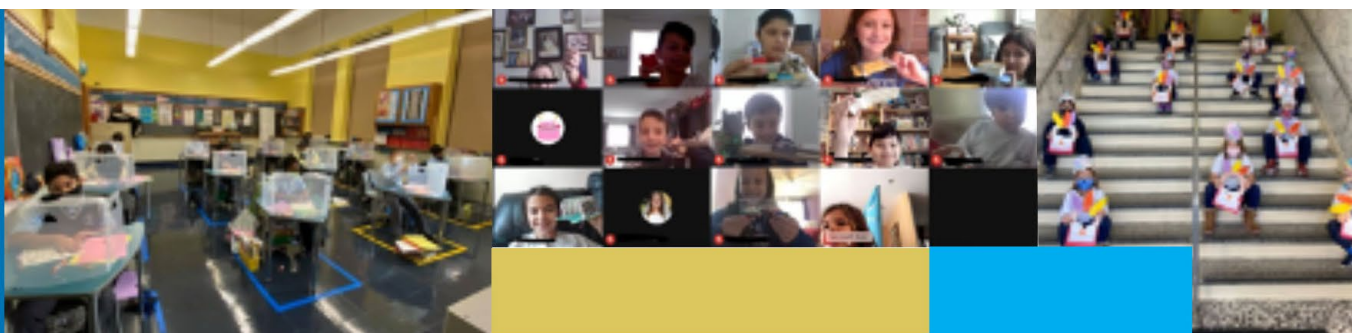
Enrollment Success

- “Touring Tuesday,” which featured school tours welcoming prospective students and families, kicked off and continued with online information sessions throughout the pandemic.
- **40%** of Catholic Academies and Parish Schools saw an increase in K-8 enrollment
- Many schools reached capacity or had waiting lists*
- Futures in Education awarded \$8.4 million in tuition assistance to families in need during the 2019-2020 academic year – almost \$1 million more than the prior year. Assistance included direct relief to families affected by COVID-19.



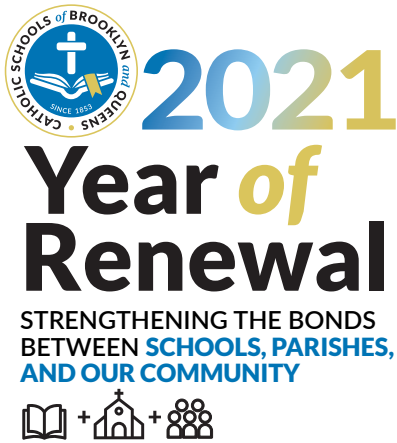
Educating the Whole Child

- Teachers and staff, in collaboration with Program for the Development of Human Potential, worked to provide lessons and activities to support students and families' emotional/mental health.
- Remote Counseling is being provided to support student needs as well as the provision of additional counselors to address an increase in student and family needs.
- Catholic Academies and Parish Schools engage in activities focused on sharing love and kindness.



Student and Family Safety

- Administration, Teachers, and staff prepared for the 2020 school year to welcome students back to school safely including changing the physical layout of classrooms, preparing signs, and adding social distance markers.
- Catholic Academies and Parish Schools have purchased masks and other PPE, additional cleaning supplies, hand sanitizers, and plastic shields to ensure the safety of all.
- When required, Catholic Academies and Parish Schools have shifted to remote learning to ensure the health and safety of staff and students.



A *Year of Renewal for Catholic Education*, begins with the core of the mission of Catholic education; to form children in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ as celebrated in the Catholic Church.

All actions for renewal within the Catholic Academies and Parish Schools stem from the understanding that Catholic schools are at the forefront of evangelizations. The goals of the Year of Renewal are outlined below using the focused of Catholic Culture, Enrollment, and Academic Excellence.



Manifesting Catholic Culture

Development of Adult Catechesis Programs for administration and faculty.

Increasing the rigor of religious education.

Setting a Diocesan wide standard for hours allocated for religion instruction based on grade level .

Developing a liturgical calendar for each school to promote a shared Mass experience .



Promoting & Retaining Enrollment

Increase disbursement of Evangelization Scholarships.

Increase enrollment opportunities through Parish Connection events.

Using data analysis sourced from Mission InSite, focus on population trends based on parish boundaries and determine which areas contain the greatest opportunity for enrollment acquisition.



Enhancing Academic Excellence

Development of additional training opportunities for principals to increase understanding of special needs requirements as well as foster a culture of inclusion.

Development of a technology plan at each location that provides strategies to achieve and sustain technology goals.

Increase use of student data to guide instruction and monitor growth.

Development of Professional Learning Communities within deanery and leadership teams.