

Vol. 12, No. 8 / December 17, 2021

THE FRIDAY UPDATE



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS..

Dear School Leaders,

It has been truly a year of perseverance, hope, collaboration and teamwork, personified. As a veteran in Catholic education, I am truly in awe of our school leaders, who have weathered this unprecedented pandemic with tremendous faith and prayer, poise, innovation, and an incomparable collaborative spirit to keep Archdiocese of Washington schools open and thriving. The archdiocesan leadership appreciates and admires your commitment to this vocation and your students, and together with your school communities, thanks you for an incredible job, well done!

As we conclude this third Week of Advent and enter into the Christmas Octave, we still have much work ahead of us before we depart for the Christmas and New Year's break. The Catholic Schools Office will be closed for break, December 24-31, 2021. This Friday Update will be our last for this calendar year. Please be sure to take note of upcoming activities in January, including the Superintendent's Conference Day on January 18 and 2022 Catholic Schools Week. We are also looking forward to working with you on the 2023-2028 Catholic schools strategic plan.

In this joyful time of awaiting the birth of our Lord, Jesus the Christ Child, we also pause for a moment as a Catholic community in prayer and solitude for all those lost, injured and displaced by the tornadoes this week in the Midwest. Lord, please bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength.

On behalf of the Catholic Schools Office, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and blessed New Year, moving Onward in Hope!

In Peace,


Kelly Branaman

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MASTER CALENDAR

Thursday, January 6, 2022 ESPA Exec Committee Meeting 9:30 AM - Virtual	Thursday, January 6, 2022 Leadership Academy 12:00 PM - TBD
Friday, January 8, 2022 Fall Assurance window closes	Monday, January 10, 2022 DC ESPA 1:00-3:00 PM - Virtual
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 New Principal Meeting - 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM St. Augustine School, Washington DC	Tuesday, January 11, 2022 MC ESPA Meeting 12:30 PM-2:30 PM - Virtual
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 PG ESPA Meeting 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Virtual	Thursday, January 13, 2022 SoMD ESPA Meeting 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Virtual
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 Superintendent's Conference Day - 8:30 AM–2:30 PM St. Mary of the Assumption School	Wednesday, January 19, 2022 ADW Board of Education 6:00 PM - Virtual

MASTER TO-DO LIST

- Review Open House Dates for Catholic Schools Week [HERE](#). If you have any changes, email Barbara Quisquinay at quisquinayb@adw.org
- Submit 2022-23 marketing priorities determined as part of enrollment forecasting to Anna Quattrone at quattronea@adw.org

Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member. All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.



USCCB

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ENROLLMENT & ADVANCEMENT

Consider Catholic Schools Information Sessions

Wednesday, January 12 at 7PM

Thursday, January 13 at 7PM

The Catholic Schools Office will host two virtual information sessions for prospective families to learn more about Catholic school admissions, enrollment, and tuition assistance.

Please share the registration link below to any interested families.

Register [HERE](#)



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Winter Courses

3 Credit Courses

Details:

- Online Start Date: January 3, 2022
- Online End Date: February 25, 2022
- Cost: ADW teacher \$75.00/course + cost of book

Courses:

- Assessment for Reading Instruction
- Materials for Reading
- Inclusion: Accessible Education for All
- Digital Tools

1 Credit Courses

Details:

- Live Zoom Sessions every Tuesday from January 4 - February 22
- Cost: ADW teacher \$50.00

Courses:

- Growth Focused Observation and Feedback (10:00 - 11:30AM)
- A Common Vision of Instructional Excellence (3:30 - 4:30PM)

[Click here for more details and to enroll](#)

Webinar

You've Got Your Test Scores—
Now What?

Wednesday, Jan. 19th 2022 at
3:30pm

Join Scantron expert, Victoria Grammas, to understand the variety of assessment data available and how you can use it to increase proficiency and improve learning outcomes.

Register [HERE](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.





Tips for Traveling During the Holidays

The holiday season is a great time to make plans to travel outside of the United States or back to your home country; however, there are a few things you should know upon your return to school. Here are a couple of tips to keep in mind before you leave and upon your return to the United States.

Tip 1: It is important to have your school's most up-to-date contact information, including a weekend or 24-hour telephone emergency number.

Tip 2: Have all the necessary travel documents. When you enter the United States, you will arrive at a port of entry and meet with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers for primary and sometimes a secondary inspection (if the CBP officer at the port of entry cannot verify your information, or if you do not have all of the required documentation (see list below), you may be directed to an interview area known as "secondary inspection." Secondary inspection allows inspectors to conduct additional research in order to verify information without causing delays for other arriving passengers). The CBP officer may ask questions about your reason for travel and to inspect important documents like your:

- Passport
- Student Visa
- Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status"

*Be sure to hand-carry these items and do not put them in your checked baggage.

Under certain circumstances, the CBP officer may issue a Form I-515A "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor," which authorizes temporary admission into the United States for 30 days while you obtain and submit necessary documentation to SEVP. Work with your school and your DSO without delay to submit the proper documentation required by the Form I-515A.

*Note: If you do not respond to a Form I-515A within 30 days, it will negatively affect your F1 status and you may be required to leave the United States.

Tip 3: Effective November 8, 2021 at 12:01am EST (5:01am GMT), before boarding a flight to the United States from another country, all air passengers – 2 years or older – are required to present a negative COVID-19 viral test.

- If you are fully vaccinated: Proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 3 days before travel.
- If you are not fully vaccinated: A negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel.