

# THE FRIDAY UPDATE



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS...

Dear School Leaders,

With God's grace, we have made it through the first semester, of a very challenging, yet inspiring year! We have seen much in the way of a pandemic and untold sickness, and death, racial tension and political strife, and yet, through it all, we have remained faithful and persevered, through the love of Christ, who can do ALL things.

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Since school began, I have seen our school leaders, time and again, step up and never shirk their duty and privilege of caring for their faculty, staff, and students. Often times, I hear the stories of those who have not only gone beyond the call of duty, but literally put their school on their back, to carry them through what is truly an unprecedented time.

This edition of the Friday Update will be the last for 2020, and thus, I ask that you review the information thoroughly, to ensure you meet any deadlines and are advised of dates for year-end projects. In addition, you may obtain information and can aptly prepare for the first few weeks of 2021, including noting the Superintendent's Conference Day for elementary principals on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

As we continue Advent, awaiting Our Savior's birth, and celebrate Christmas and the New Year, please know my gratitude knows no bounds, for the steady and courageous leadership of all of you. The Catholic Schools Office and I are honored to have worked with such tremendous educators, who also walk in the way of Christ, with love for their school communities. These seasons remind us of the Perfect Gift. As said in the Christmas carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight," let us carry our prayers of hope into the new year.

Kelly Branaman



## MASTER CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, December 16, 2020:** Marketing Committee Meeting – 9:30 – 11:30am
- **Thursday, January 7, 2021:** ESPA Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 – 11:30am
- **Tuesday, January 19, 2021:** Superintendent’s Conference Day – 8:30 – 2pm (virtual)

## MASTER TO-DO CALENDAR

### Enrollment and Marketing:

- Submit 2021-22 marketing priorities determined as part of enrollment forecasting
- Submit Catholic Schools Week open house dates [HERE](#) to be included in promotional materials.
- Remind parents to submit High School Choices in Cvent by December 13, 2020

### Academics:

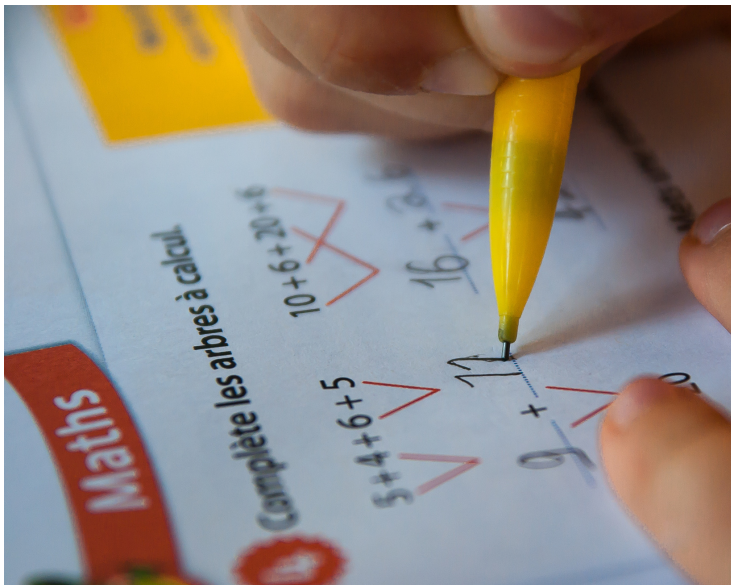
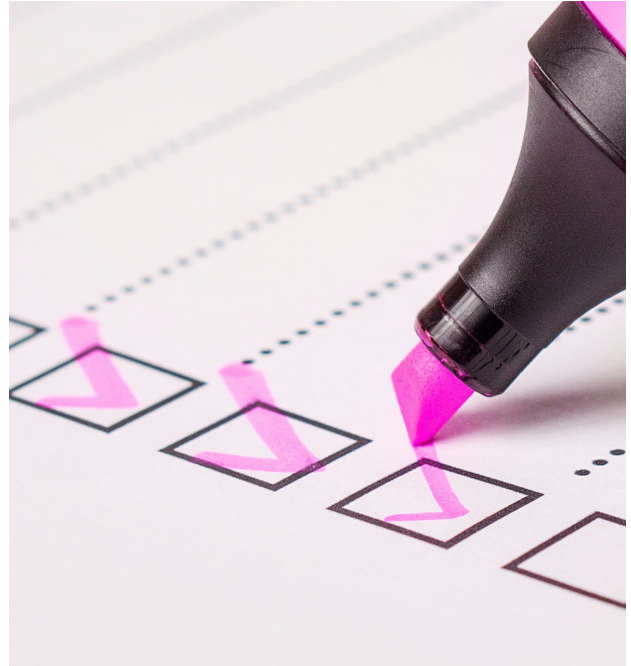
- Submit Mid-Year Scantron Performance testing schedules by December 18, 2020

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Survey for all ADW educators.

Our academic team has been able to support you, by providing webinars, podcasts, courses, and newsletters. But we still have work to do, to continue remote and blended learning through the remainder of the pandemic.

We are asking all educators to complete this **5 minute survey** in order to help our academic team prepare where to focus our professional development efforts in 2021.



### Mid-Year Scantron Testing

The Mid-Year Scantron Testing Window opens on *Jan. 4 – Feb 26.*

The short or express version is mandatory for all students in grades 2–8.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Staying Safe and Connected during COVID

Maintaining and building connections within your school can help to engage students in learning and prevent feelings of isolation during this unusual time.

Not sure what else you can do? Here are a few ideas:

1. Add a virtual club led by a staff member and/or a Virtus-certified parent. Ideas include student leadership, arts and crafts (knitting, drawing, photography), creative writing, school newspaper, and baking. Read [here](#) for ideas on how to carve out time in your day and more.
2. Invite teachers to join you in student relationship mapping. This exercise can help to highlight the strengths of your teams' connections and narrow down the list of students that need further outreach. Read [here](#) to better understand the strategy and find tools to get started.
3. Use Google forms or other tools to create a student check in form. This allows students another avenue to let you if they are struggling and how you might help. [Here](#) is a sample survey that can be copied and personalized.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Archdiocese of Washington  
Cardinal Baum Scholarship Program

Each year, Cardinal Baum Scholarships are awarded to outstanding elementary and secondary teachers in the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) to help them offset the cost of tuition for a Master's or PhD program at a Catholic college or university. This year the ADW will award \$15,000 in scholarships to select elementary and secondary school teachers who:

- Are currently teaching full-time at an elementary or high school in the ADW
- Have taught in the Archdiocese for at least three years
- Are currently enrolled in, or have been admitted to, a Master's or PhD program related to their teaching assignment at a Catholic college or university
- Have maintained at least a 3.0 average in their graduate coursework

New applicants must submit the following:

- A completed application form
- 1 – 2 page statement of your professional goals as a Catholic school teacher
- A letter of recommendation from your current principal
- An official copy of your graduate transcript
- A tuition bill that includes proof of payment

All applications and supporting documents must be received by January 15, 2021.  
[APPLY HERE.](#)

Recipients will be notified by February 22, 2021.

## ENROLLMENT AND MARKETING



### **Marketing Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, December 16, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Email [quisquinaybeadw.org](mailto:quisquinaybeadw.org) for Zoom link

During this meeting, we will discuss the following topics:

- 2021-2022 Marketing Tactics
- 2021 Catholic Schools Week Marketing Tactics

Please feel free to share meeting details with any other marketing and enrollment personnel who should be included.