



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

310 PROSPECT PARK WEST

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215

718-965-7300

FAX: 718-965-7353

*Knowledge must result from the activity of the pupil's own mind. Along with acquiring knowledge with the aid of the teacher, he can also acquire knowledge by applying his mind by which he knows the first principles of all knowledge. The teacher often points out issues, which the pupil had not thought of and shows the relationship between the concepts which the pupil would have not noticed without the teacher pointing them out...*

***Saint Thomas Aquinas***

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Catholic Academy and Parish School Students,

On Friday, August 7, 2020, Governor Cuomo informed New York State that all schools can open for in-person instruction, beginning in September 2020. Our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools have been preparing school re-opening plans, so that children could return to safe and healthy school environments, which will adhere closely to New York State, New York City, and Center for Disease Control guidelines and measures.

COVID-19 has impacted families differently, with many families not certain that in-person learning is the best choice for their children at this time. Hearing the need to support families with their educational choices, the Office of the Superintendent~Catholic School Support Services will be launching a Diocesan-wide distance learning Catholic academy. *Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy* will serve as a full-time distance learning option for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. The distance learning Catholic academy is intended to support the Catholic Academies and Parish Schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn and enable families to remain enrolled at their current Catholic Academy/Parish School but receive their instruction remotely.

*Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy* has been established to provide a Christ-centered instructional program, which is student-centered, differentiated and academically challenging, using diagnostic testing and frequent benchmark indicators to accurately, regularly measure student progress. Teachers will communicate student learning expectations, provide resources, collect assignments, and provide feedback, using a platform most appropriate to meet student needs.

A principal has been hired to oversee the development and implementation of *Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy's* academic and faith formation programs. At the present, a talented team of experienced teachers, with experience in digital teaching is being assembled.

Virtual conferences will be set-up, during the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>, allowing all interested families to receive additional information about *Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Catholic Academy*. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a Frequently Asked Questions handout, and a programmatic details handout. It is our hope that the handouts will provide you with additional information.

Continued prayers for you, and your family!

Sincerely,

***Thomas Chadzutko***

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.  
Superintendent ~ Catholic School Support Services