



Office of Catholic Schools  
835 N. Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
tel 312.534.5200  
schools.archchicago.org

May 2017

Dear Catholic School Families,

In my 18 months as Superintendent of Catholic Schools, I have been deeply impressed by the quality and vibrancy of the schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Catholic education is central to our local Church, and I am grateful for your trust and partnership as we educate your child.

A Catholic education begins in preschool and continues through high school graduation. We are blessed with many excellent Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese. For the past several months, I have been in conversation with school parents, teachers and administrators to better support the transition from Catholic eighth grade programs into Catholic high schools. As a result, we have agreed to move up the date of the Catholic High School Entrance Exam. Effective next school year (2017/18 school year), the Catholic High School Entrance Exam, historically held in January, will now take place the first Saturday of December.

This change is driven primarily from input we received from families in the Archdiocese and our desire to help make a Catholic high school education a reality. An earlier entrance exam date will allow the high schools to send financial aid information to families sooner so more informed decisions can be made when selecting an appropriate high school for children.

As you know, the benefits of a Catholic education are abundant. Our Catholic high school seniors graduate at a rate of more than 98 percent. Ninety-five percent of our Catholic high school graduates go on to college, earning hundreds of millions of dollars in college scholarships each year. Our students are committed to helping others through community service, a commitment that continues through adulthood. Catholic school graduates are civically engaged and can be found in leadership positions in business, government and non-profit organizations.

If you have any questions about the new Catholic High School Entrance Exam testing date, please contact your local elementary school principal and/or Catholic high school near you. A complete list of Catholic high schools can be found on our website: [schools.archchicago.org](http://schools.archchicago.org).

We hope to see you and the eighth graders of the Archdiocese on Saturday, December 2, 2017 for the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.

Thank you for continued commitment to Catholic education.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Rigg".

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Archdiocese of Chicago