



**ARCHDIOCESE
of PHILADELPHIA
SCHOOLS**

AMERICA'S FIRST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

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Dear Principals,

In recent weeks, we have received a lot of inquiries from principals and parents of prospective students asking whether we would be incorporating things such as Critical Race Theory and the 1619 Project into our curriculum. We felt it important to provide you with a statement on our position to assist you if you should encounter any questions of this nature. Following is the statement of our position:

***Nothing** is added to the Archdiocesan curriculum unless it has been thoroughly researched and studied, aligned to national and state curriculum standards and found to be in keeping with **Gospel values** and the **Principles of Catholic Social Justice**. There are aspects of Critical Race Theory including the importance of confronting racism, assisting the poor and underprivileged, addressing social and economic inequalities, and fighting human exploitation that we as a Church deeply support. These are all core elements of established Catholic social teaching and should already be addressed in Catholic education without embracing CRT.*

This is a good time to emphasize the importance of teaching the content in the curriculum guidelines and using programs that have been approved for use in our schools. It is important, too, to stress that content to be taught is based on the curriculum rather than any textbook program. If teachers teach the curriculum, they will not be introducing controversial issues such as CRT and Project 1619.

Many of the complaints we receive from parents at the time of end-of-level testing focus on the fact that there were questions in the tests on content that was not taught. Yet every test is based on curriculum content for the level rather than textbook content. This is another good reason to focus on the content of our guidelines.

It might seem strange to receive this at the end of the school year, but we felt it was important to address these issues as you might be faced with questions over the summer when registering new students or from parents concerned about these issues.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved vacation and a happy and restful summer. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Sister Edward