



North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools

THE
CHURCH
ALIVE!

Office of Regional Administrator

111 BOULEVARD OF THE ALLIES
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
(412) 456-3070 FAX (412) 456-3189
e-mail: mkillmeyer@diopitt.org

April 7, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for your support and dedication to Catholic education. The schools in the North Hills have had a long-standing tradition of excellence. Having worked with these schools for the past 12 years as an Educational Consultant, I know that the tradition of excellence that exists is due to the wonderful pastors, principals, teachers, parents, parishioners and the hard work of our students. Your continuing support of the North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (NHRCES) is necessary and appreciated to extend the tradition of excellence.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. I am a product of Catholic Education as a proud alumnus of both St. Maurice School in Forest Hills and Central Catholic High School. I have devoted the past twenty-six years of my life to Catholic education, with eleven years as a teacher, teaching students in grades Kindergarten through Eight. I spent three years as a principal and twelve years as an Educational Consultant in the Catholic Schools Office. As an Educational Consultant, I worked with the principals in Vicariate 4 (Butler/Lawrence Deanery), Title IIA Federal Programs Coordinator and Educational Consultant for Technology, Science, Physical Education and Health. I am very proud and honored to have been appointed as the Regional Administrator for NHRCES.

Education has always been very important to my family. My mother was a teacher in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for 44 years. My sister taught in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for 20 years before moving to Virginia where she is still a teacher. My son is an elementary teacher also. My wife Mary Ann and I live in Pittsburgh. We have two great adult children and are proud grandparents of two incredible girls, one is three years old and the other was just born yesterday.

A Catholic school has a special mission that sets it apart from other schools. In addition to supporting a complete academic curriculum, a Catholic school is a faith community that integrates religious instruction, Catholic values, and faith development into the academic education of the students. We have been working very hard on those various facets that we believe to be vital to Catholic Education.

It has been forty-seven days since the Bishop made his announcement on the new grade configurations of the schools in the North Hills. Since then, I have met with the principals on a weekly basis to collaborate and coordinate program offerings and teacher placements. This responsibility is not taken lightly by anyone involved in the hiring process. We are adhering to the process that was

established in the existing teacher contracts and are proceeding accordingly. The teachers will be notified by April 28, 2017 of their tentative placements and a preliminary roster will be made available to parents by May 1, 2017. I understand and appreciate that everyone is eager to find out what teachers will be teaching in the various buildings. The tentative teacher placements will be based on current enrollment numbers. If you have not already done so, please consider sending in your registration so that we may have an accurate count of students for staffing purposes.

You have already received the most recent communication from the board that outlines the following:

- Half day pre-kindergarten tuition rates
- Pre-kindergarten multi-child discount rates
- Hiring process for Principal at St. Sebastian / St. Teresa of Avila school
- Hiring process for the Regional Business Manager
- Formation of School Advisory Councils (SAC) to assist in planning for next year

A few additional notes:

- If you are currently in the Diocesan Safe Environment Database, you will not need to get new clearances for the new school.
- Children will be permitted to wear their existing uniforms for the first year as a transitional year.

I am very excited about this upcoming year. We have a wonderful opportunity to be the first Region in place to offer a total academic curriculum that integrates Catholic values, faith development and a strong curriculum. I firmly believe that Catholic education plays an important role in transmitting the faith, in building the community, and in promoting service. Research has indicated that previous regionalized systems have strengthened in the areas of Catholic identity, school community, educational programming, enrollment, management and finances. We recognize that time is necessary to implement the regional school system, to develop it and to realize the benefits of regionalization. Navigating through this process is being recognized through the countless hours of planning by the Board, the principals and so many others. Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and the Blessed Mother's patience as we bring this endeavor to fruition. Our strength as a supporting community that is working together will bring about the success that we know lies ahead.

Thank you for all of the efforts that you put forth to help strengthen and sustain Catholic Education in our region.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Killmeyer, M.Ed.

Regional Administrator

North Hills Regional Catholic Schools