



July 26, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families are enjoying a safe and happy summer!

I'm writing to share an exciting update about special education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Over the past five months, it has been a great joy for me to visit our 15 Archdiocesan High Schools and three Schools of Special Education. A consistent theme during those visits has been the excellent educational experience our students receive and the resources being provided for them to become Missionary Disciples.

I have long experience with special education and a deep passion for this discipline. As part of our concentrated efforts to help differently abled learners realize their potential, Archbishop Pérez has approved the creation of two new positions to serve young people attending our High Schools and Schools of Special Education.

President of the Archdiocesan Schools of Special Education

The first role is President of the Schools of Special Education who will directly assist Saint Lucy School for Children with Visual Impairments, Saint Katherine School, and Our Lady of Confidence School. This person reports to the Superintendent of Secondary Schools and Schools of Special Education in matters pertaining to the administration of the schools, programming, and in the development of a Board of Directors.

Archbishop Pérez has approved a recommendation from the Office of Catholic Education to appoint Mrs. Mary A. Adams, President of the Schools of Special Education effective September 1, 2023. Mrs. Adams brings nearly 30 years of experience in special education with her. For the past 26 years, she served as Principal at John Paul II Center for Special Learning in the Diocese of Allentown. Prior to that role, Mrs. Adams was a special education teacher at John Paul II and in the Wilson School District in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Adams holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education and a Master of Education Degree in Elementary Education from Millersville University.

Mrs. Adams will focus on several key areas in our Schools of Special Education including Spirituality and Mission; Program and Board Development; Fundraising; and Marketing/ Recruitment Strategies. She will use all available resources to provide scholarship and tuition assistance to make our Schools of Special Education available to all who desire it. In addition, Mrs. Adams will support academic programs and enhancements, oversee facilities improvements, and provide for a safe, rigorous, and relevant quality education for all students.

Special Education Supervisor for Secondary Schools

A robust search is currently being conducted to identify the best possible candidate for the second newly created position--Special Education Supervisor for Secondary Schools. This individual will also report to the Superintendent of Secondary Schools and Schools of Special Education and is directly responsible for serving all students as a Missionary Disciple. In addition, they will lead the execution of the Strategic Goals for Special Education and will manage the full continuum of Special Education services in our high schools. Their responsibilities will include to evaluate staffing, program and material needs, as well as technology at the high schools and to make recommendations to increase capacity to serve students with mild-moderate learning disabilities with accommodations. We will provide an update about this new role in the near future.

New Principal of Saint Katherine School

It brings me great joy to share that Ms. Rebecca Greenwich has been appointed Principal of Saint Katherine School (SKS) effective August 1, 2023. Ms. Greenwich is a dedicated educator with 17 years of experience. The majority of that time has been in service to the SKS community. Most recently, she was responsible for Vocational Education at the school's Radnor campus. Prior to that time, she taught at Presbyterian Nurse School and SKS's Wynnewood campus.

Ms. Greenwich holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Specific Learning Disabilities from Franciscan University in Steubenville. She has also completed Masters Level Coursework in Human Exceptionalities at La Salle University.

Please join me in extending prayerful congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Adams and Ms. Greenwich as they prepare for these new roles in service to our local Church.

Finally, I take this opportunity to share Dr. Danielle Heeney, who has served as Director of Special Education since April 2021 and Interim-Principal at Saint Katherine School since August 2022 has decided to pursue other career opportunities. Her last day will be July 31, 2023.

We are grateful to Dr. Heeney for her contributions to our mission and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Please know of our continued gratitude for the sacrifices you make to provide the gift of a Catholic education to your sons and daughters and for your ongoing support of our Schools of Special Education and Secondary Schools.

We are excited to welcome everyone back for the 2023-2024 school year and know of my prayers for you and your families during these remaining weeks of summer.



Dr. Brooke C. Tesche
Superintendent of Secondary Schools &
Schools of Special Education
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