



Cathedral of St. Peter
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April 12, 2021

Dear Families of All Saints Catholic Academy,

We have been through a very difficult year since March of 2020. There has been a need for creativity and openness to new approaches to learning and teaching. I commend the teachers on their perseverance and dedication through all the restrictions and shutdowns. Overall, the results have been fruitful, and our children have been able to continue their education. Sadly, we have had to miss so many of the social aspects of the school community. We all pray for a brighter future soon.

I also commend our principal, Renee Payne, for her leadership and positive approach to the challenges of heading up a school during a pandemic. It is with no little sadness, therefore, that I now have to announce to you Ms. Payne's decision to leave her position as the head of All Saints Catholic Academy. In the coming year, she will take over the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools within the diocesan Office of Catholic Education. This is a great opportunity for Ms. Payne, and a great loss for us. The brighter side of this move is that she will bring to the diocesan office an intimate awareness of the process we went through from the ending of the independent parish schools and their rebirth as the beautiful Phoenix, All Saints Catholic Academy. She will also bring to the diocesan office a first-hand knowledge of the operations, needs, and unique assets of our school. I expect this to be very positive for us.

May God bless our school through this time of change. May God bless all our children and families. May God bless Ms. Payne in her new undertaking.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend Stephen St. Jules
Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter
Executive Pastor of All Saints Catholic Academy



April 13, 2021

Dear All Saints Catholic Academy Families,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter to inform you that as of June 30, 2021, I will be leaving the position of principal of All Saints Catholic Academy and begin a new position as Assistant Superintendent in the Rockford Diocese.

I have loved being a part of four school communities and eight parishes coming together to create All Saints. It has been both rewarding and challenging. I was fortunate from the very beginning to work with parents and staff who only wanted to create the best Catholic school for their children/students.

It has definitely been a year and a half of events I never would have predicted. None of us would have ever dreamt that Friday, March 13, would be the last day we would see our students until September. That was so unfortunate for us as a new school. Trying to create a school community would be difficult for anyone and the pandemic has made it even harder. Our students have adjusted well to All Saints - not that there aren't times they desire to go back to the schools which they came from when All Saints was created, that is to be expected. The good part is that generally students can adjust easily to new environments and new friends. Being back in the school building with their classmates has afforded them the opportunity to continue to get to know each other and continue to grow spiritually and academically.

Unfortunately there haven't been opportunities for parents to get to know each other since last March. Covid guidelines and restrictions have certainly limited the opportunities for interaction between parents and the opportunity to get to know the staff. Once there is no longer a need for everyone to be separate from each other the building of community will continue. Each of us has now had a common experience which I believe will help facilitate the growing of an All Saints Catholic Academy community. It is so important to understand it will take a few years to create an environment each was accustomed to at the previous schools. It is up to everyone to create a school community where our students can thrive spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically. Although I haven't had the opportunity to know many of you personally, what I have seen and experienced is the desire to come together. I strongly believe God is guiding the people of All Saints on this journey and through His grace All Saints' mission statement will come alive more each day,

All Saints Catholic Academy is a Christ-centered community that is dedicated to sharing our Catholic faith with others. It is our mission to guide the mind, body and spirit of the next generation of Catholic leaders to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ as beacons of light to the world. In partnership with parents, we are committed to promoting academic excellence through an integrated global curriculum rooted in Gospel values.

Although I will miss my work with our school family and seeing the children come into school with smiles on their faces as they experience learning here, I look forward to the challenges and rewards the Assistant Superintendent's position has to offer and perhaps more importantly, the opportunity to help All Saints in other ways.

I have been fortunate to work under the guidance of Fr. St. Jules and Fr. Stachyra, as well as the pastors of our supporting parishes. They believe in All Saints and are dedicated and committed to seeing All Saints thrive. I am also very grateful to have worked with a staff that has faced many challenges and continue to give so much of themselves to the students.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as Head of School and Principal. I look forward to hearing about the accomplishments of the All Saints Catholic Academy's students.

Sincerely

Renee Payne
Principal