



DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

Good morning,

I am happy to report that enrollment for next year is going well and growing each day. I am confident that our new school will be a vibrant and diverse community of students and families committed to Catholic education. I am especially grateful to current parents for their patience and understanding during this time of transition.

Today I write to inform you that while we are still in the process of interviewing teachers, we have selected a head of school and two campus principals. Our new Head of School will be Ms. Pat Brady, our PreK-Grade 5 Campus Principal will be Mrs. Natalia Cruz and our Grade 6-8 Campus Principal will be Ms. Abbey Camillery. While Mrs. Cruz and Ms. Camillery came to our Diocese this past year as Principals, each of them has worked under the principal mentorship of Ms. Pat Brady.

Ms. Pat Brady holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and two Master of Arts Degrees in History and Elementary School Administration. She has devoted her entire professional career to Catholic education; as a teacher for 14 years and a principal for the last 22 years. Ms. Brady currently serves as Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade elementary school in Fairfield, CT, with an enrollment of 400 students and 42 faculty and staff. Under Brady's administration, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School earned the 2010 National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award. Pat's exemplary leadership has been recognized nationally; having received the Distinguished Principal Award for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 2007, the National Catholic Education Association's Dr. Robert J. Kealey Distinguished Principal Award in 2008, as well as being named a National Distinguished Principal by the United States Department of Education in 2008.

Pat Brady currently resides in the Huntington area of Shelton and is a parishioner of St. Lawrence Church. Brady plans to relocate to the Stamford area. Reporting to a Board of Directors for our new school, Pat shall serve as the chief academic, education and executive office of the Corporation and shall see that all orders, resolutions and policies of the Board are carried into effect. Pat has served as a member of the Stamford Catholic Education Strategic Planning Committee for the past year and because of that experience, understands the challenges at hand as well as the vision moving forward.

Ms. Abbey Camillery was appointed Principal of Trinity Catholic Middle School in August 2016. Ms. Camillery holds two Master of Arts Degrees, in Adolescent Education and Educating Students with Disabilities. Abbey came to our Diocese with over ten years of experience teaching Catholic middle school and high school aged students, most recently as Junior High Coordinator for a Grade 7-12 Catholic School. In her short time at Trinity Catholic Middle School, Abbey has been instrumental in creating an Innovation Lab and introducing STEM programs to the curriculum. Ms. Camillery resides in Stamford during the week and spends most weekends in Rocky Point, NY where she is a parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Church.

Mrs. Natalia Cruz was appointed Principal of Our Lady Star of the Sea School in July 2016. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Childhood Education and is currently working towards a dual Masters in Building and District School Leader. Mrs. Cruz came to our Diocese with twelve years of experience teaching in Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York. Mrs. Cruz has been instrumental in building a strong sense of community, especially among the Latino population as she is fluent in Spanish. Mrs. Cruz resides in Bronx, NY with her husband and three children and is a parishioner of St. John Chrysostom Church.

In addition to announcing the new administration, I am pleased to announce that our new school name is **The Catholic Academy of Stamford**. Our new name is a derivative of Stamford Catholic Academy which received the highest number of votes in our parent survey. We modified the name so as not to be confused with Stamford Academy which is a public school in the area. Thank you to all who voted and helped us name our school.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Brady, Ms. Camillery and Mrs. Cruz to The Catholic Academy of Stamford and praying for their success and the success of teachers and students. All three administrators are creative, innovative, and visionary leaders that are committed to ensuring a strong future for Catholic education in Stamford. I invite you to come meet them, as well as our newly formed Board of Directors, on Sunday March 19 at 2 pm at Trinity Catholic High School. More information will follow but please save the date. May God bless The Catholic Academy of Stamford community during this time of transition.

Sincerely,



Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
Superintendent of Schools