

February 7, 2020

Dear St. Thomas the Apostle School Families,

Last week, I had the joy of praying with our students and participating in our school's celebrations during Catholic Schools Week. As parents, you have the first responsibility for the education of your children, modeling the faith and giving a good example for your children, and I want to commend you for setting your children on a good path. Your children are inspiring!

As a Catholic school, our goal is to provide a community where students learn, grow and, most importantly, deepen their friendship with Jesus Christ, through whom we find our fullness of joy and also our hope in times of uncertainty.

It is with a sense of uneasiness that I write to inform you that Ms. Joanne Kowit, who has served as our school's principal for seven years, resigned from her position at our school today. Over the years, many in our school community have shared with me their heartfelt appreciation of her, and so we are grateful for her service to our school and wish her all the best in the future.

Ms. Annette Pioppo, who has served in our school for 20 years, has been appointed as the interim principal. By appointing Ms. Pioppo, a respected and familiar presence in our school, I hope that this transition will cause little to no disruption for our students, faculty and staff, and school families. Ms. Pioppo will be under the direction of Barbara Stevens, assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Metuchen, as we begin the search for a new principal.

It is understandable that this transition may prompt questions, so I'd ask that as these questions arise, you please contact me directly, so that any cause for concern can be addressed quickly.

As we do in all things, let us pray for our students, our faculty and staff, our school families, and Ms. Kowit and Ms. Pioppo, as we enter into this transition.

Thank you for entrusting your children to our school community. May we – as parents, as teachers, and as leaders – continue to deepen our own friendships with Jesus Christ, modeling our faith by the way we live, so our children will be guided towards God in all that they do.

May God continue to bless you and your families!

Rev. Jerome A. Johnson
Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle