

"You have been told what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

We are excited to be walking with all of you through these uncharted waters of change. Change is always difficult yet amidst the challenges there are opportunities for greatness. Micah reminds us of our call to do something with our faith. He calls us to choose the good, to pursue justice (healthy relationships) and to assume a posture of humble servitude in all that we do. I look forward to serving this community of faith and learning.



My wife, Denise, and I have been married for thirteen years. We have four wonderful children and the support of loving families. If you should happen by our home you will see life – children aplenty (ours and our neighbors). You most likely will also experience a touch of chaos topped with a lot of love. It has been our family, to be candid, which drives our career choices (Denise as a Physical Therapist and me as an Educator).

I began my career at St. Catharine of Sienna School in Westwood. I had the opportunity to work with parents, faculty and staff who were passionate about sustaining Catholic education in Westwood. While at St. Catharine's, I wore a variety of hats. I was hired as the School Counselor and Director of Religious Education and later served in the unique position of Administrative Associate

for the parish. I had the privilege of serving on the Administrative Team for both the parish and the school. While at St. Catharine I obtained my Masters Degree in Counseling.

After seven years at St. Catharine School and parish, Denise and I decided that I would take a position at The Summit Country Day School. We saw this as an opportunity to be a part of educational excellence. It has been just that. Faculty passionate about their craft; administrators renowned throughout the region and in some cases the country; students hungry for knowledge and focused on their next academic endeavor (whether High School or college). At Summit I served as a member of the Administrative Team for the high school and worked across the divisions in a variety of leadership roles. It was these formative experiences that lead to my completing a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership.

Our two oldest children Rachel (9) and Micah (7) have known only The Summit up to this point in their educational journey. Adam (4) and Marie (3) have known only the love and acceptance of the faculty, staff and families of St. Rita's School for the Deaf. Now we find ourselves excited by the prospect of moving away from the independent school world back into the parochial school world where we have felt so at home. We look forward to once again celebrating the Sunday Eucharist with our children's friends and their families as well as the parish community we serve.

Change is never easy. I want to acknowledge the work of my predecessors. The excellence we are poised to achieve is rooted in the leadership of the administration and teachers who served in our individual parish schools. We are blessed to be continuing towards excellence with such a solid foundation. I look forward to learning more about how we can bring together the unique elements of each parish and school in creating this one regional school.

While I have dialogued with only a small handful of the parishioners, parents, faculty and staff I will be serving, I would like to ask you all to hold me accountable in our collective pursuit of excellence and ask for your special attention on the following three elements of our life together.

1. This school is your parish school. We will work to foster a dynamic life-giving school community that finds the fullness of its expression in parish life. We will partner with each of you to enhance the lived experience of our school and parishes. Our children will celebrate with you the Sacraments, our schools will invite you to our plays and art shows and we will serve one another through common prayer and fellowship.
2. Every child who walks into our school is going to be known and loved. Their fears, their personality characteristics, their learning styles, their family structures will all be taken into consideration as we bring to fruition a learner who can take ownership for his/her education. We will be a community which accepts each child where he or she is and in doing so provides them the safety and security they need to push their boundaries and grow into their God-given potential.
3. We will be a 21st century community of learners providing opportunities for real life experiences in this global community in which we are situated. To this end we will employ appropriate technological solutions. Virtual classroom experiences, on-line grade books and working to form our youth to be critical consumers of technology always acknowledging our God-given nature as social beings needing strong interpersonal skills and experiences.

As I said, these are three personal goals that I have and I ask you to hold me accountable for each of them. I look forward to working with you as we continue to craft the vision for our school community. This vision will advance our drive for excellence as we celebrate and honor where we have come from.

In the end we are all about the awesome task of building the Kingdom of God, right here and right now. This would be daunting were it not for the Grace available to us through God's activity in the Church. We are God's people and we are on a journey. I thank you for inviting my family to join yours in this exciting pursuit of the Kingdom. Peace.

Mike Johnson

Principal, The Regional School - Our Lady of Grace