

June 22, 2010

Dear Saint Thomas Families and Friends,

The last three months, since the posting of the Superintendent position, has been quite a journey for my family and me. God led us down a path that reminds me of the time just before our coming to Saint Thomas – a time of grace and of beckoning. On Thursday of this week, Bishop Hurley offered me the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, and with the position an opportunity to be his delegate to 27 elementary and 4 high schools within our diocese. Now I am experiencing similar emotions to those I experienced 17 years ago – excitement and enthusiasm, disorientation and loss, passion and vision, fear and trepidation, blessing and encouragement, but most of all gratitude and a desire to get started.

Being the principal at Saint Thomas has been a journey I will always treasure! Serving this community of faith has been a blessing in my life that has provided the context and foundation for what is possible when faith-filled believers come together for a common purpose. With clarity of vision and a mission that drives us, we were able to realize many dreams and accomplish what many would have believed impossible. Equipped with this experience, I now not only believe this is possible, but I know it is possible because I've seen it happen.

I want to express my gratitude first to Fr Jim who without his spiritual leadership, strength, council, and most treasured friendship; I would have lost my way on many occasions. I am grateful for the patience of this community, especially through those first years, and for your consistent support and generosity. I am grateful to our faculty and parish staff for blessing me with encouragement and inspiration. I want to thank the myriad of parents and volunteers that have come forward over the years with gifts that elevated our potential to possibilities many schools have never even considered possible. And finally, I want to say a word of thanksgiving to God for the years of love and affection I have received from our Saint Thomas students whom I will miss the most. Watching their hearts grow to love and serve Christ and one another while nurturing the growth of their minds, has been the most joyful and fulfilling part of my work. Our Saint Thomas Hornets will always be near and dear to my heart, and a part of my regular prayers.

As I move on to this new position, I don't feel as though I'm leaving; rather, I feel as though I'm being sent from the strength of a community that will provide a context for what is possible, encouragement through the struggles, and prayers of support for the journey that lies ahead. I love this community deeply, and I will always treasure this special time in my life.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.