



# MOUNT SAINT MARY ACADEMY

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy

Kate Segal, Principal

August 2017 Principal's Board Report

*Mission Statement: Mount Saint Mary Academy, a private Catholic elementary school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, furthers the mission of Catherine McAuley. Mount Saint Mary Academy is committed to academic excellence and the Gospel values of peace and justice. Our school instills in its students leadership skills and promotes the values of compassion and reverence for the community and environment.*

## Mercy Mission and Catholic Identity

*"The simplest and most practical lesson I know...is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow."  
Catherine McAuley*

During the summer months, the MSMA Administrative Team (Kate Segal, Kathy Moran, and Amy True) participated in and made continuing plans to participate and partner with the Sisters of Mercy and the Diocese of Manchester Catholic Schools. During the late afternoon of August 2, 2017, Kathy, Amy, and I had the pleasure of welcoming and being welcomed by Sr. Lisa Griffith, Executive Director of the Mercy Education System of the Americas Office, Sr. Regina Ward, Associate Director for Mercy Mission Integration, and Kimberly Baxter, Associate Director for Programs and Services. We will be participating in their New Leader's Orientation Program, five sessions via video conferencing. They have invited Dan Goldner, as the MSMA Board Chair to participate, as board members, please join us if available. As part of this program we will have the privilege of hearing from the author of *The Path of Mercy – the Life of Catherine McAuley*, Mary Sullivan, RSM. With great generosity, the Mercy Sisters have offered to send Kathy Moran and me to the October 12-14 Annual Administrator Meeting and Mercy Education- Conference in Omaha, NE with no fiscal responsibility to Mount Saint Mary Academy. We are both pleased and humbled by their generosity and support of MSMA. We hope to participate in the March 1<sup>st</sup> Leadership Forum, held in Atlanta, GA. which this year will focus on our Mercy Charism and Catholic Identity.

At the end of July, we submitted our Catholic Identify Review to the Manchester Diocese. All Catholic schools in New Hampshire will participate in this review on a rotating, triennial basis. We were chosen for the first rotation. This fall, we will welcome their evaluation team for a one-day site visit. The visiting team will include Superintendent Dave Thibault, a representative from the Secretariat of Faith Formation, a Catholic school principal and a member of the clergy from our local community. Their site visit assessment will include a tour of MSMA, interviews with teachers, students and parents, a review of our handbooks and policy manuals, and a wrap-up meeting with administration. A written report will be sent to the Bishop and each school that will synthesize the findings of the visit, acknowledge strengths, and provide recommendations for continued growth.

On August 2, 2017, Amy True and I attended the Diocese of Manchester New Principal Orientation where we were introduced to their staff and resources including Chancellor, Human Resources, School Finance, Communications, Safe Environment, Faith Formation, and Marketing. The MSMA Faculty handbook has been updated using their resources and guidance. Lastly, I attended the August 14-15 retreat at Saint Anslem College, Catholic Leadership Institute core program for Catholic school principals. I felt blessed and honored to learn and pray with Superintendent Thibault, Bishop Peter Libasci, and many other Catholic school principals throughout New Hampshire. Bishop Libasci fondly remembers his visit last May where he celebrated Mass with the MSMA community. He hopes to visit Mount Saint Mary Academy this fall.

## **Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment**

Throughout last year the faculty studied various science programs and curriculum. With the generosity of all those participating in last year's auction, we are pleased to have adopted Houghton Mifflin Science Fusion. We will start professional development in the area of science during our August Professional Development days. It is with gratitude and deep appreciation that Mount Saint Mary Academy was chosen as a spot light school to implement Big Ideas Learning Math. This series had been published by Houghton Mifflin, until the authors, Ron Larson and Laurie Boswell, branched out on their own, having felt a personal mission to serve diverse and low income populations. Big Ideas Learning will be donating all student books, workbooks, teacher's editions, and professional development, which will also start the last week in August.

In addition, the 2017-2018 MSMA master schedule for students in grades 3-6, includes an increase in Spanish class time and two physical education classes per week.

## **Updates and Invitations**

We have had a few changes in our faculty this summer. We would like to thank Jill Archard, Rachel Minerva, and Shawna Cutler for their years of service to Mount Saint Mary Academy and our children. With both regret and congratulations, we accepted Gail Roger's resignation letter. Gail has been offered a full time technology position at SAU level. Her letter speaks to the supportive family/community environment and professionalism of the faculty here at Mount Saint Mary Academy. She expressed her appreciation and professional/spiritual growth during her tenure here as both a faculty member and parent. The MSMA Administrative Team had two technology candidates. The position will be filled by Karyn Cartier, who has both a teaching and ministry background. She is also a student and faculty alumni of Notre Dame College. We will be using a K-6 Structured Learning Technology Curriculum. We are honored to have both Tionna Bahill, PK teacher, and Linda Jenkins, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher returning to Mount Saint Mary Academy. Finally, we welcome Leslie Froio, our new accountant, with much appreciation and thanks.

We will be welcoming back our faculty on the morning of August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If possible, please join us for our 8:00 blessing or 11:30 Pot Luck Lunch. Our annual Boo Hoo-Yah Hoo breakfast will be on the first days of school, Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup>, in our cafeteria, starting at 7:30. Our first Friday Family Gathering will be on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Our first "Mount Monday Prayer" will be on the first Monday of school, September 11, 2017 at 8:10. Please feel free to join us.

On July 24<sup>th</sup> we received our Renewal for Nonpublic School approval, grades K-6 expiring in June 30, 2022 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Education. We passed our yearly New Hampshire Department of Education Safety Check, which includes compliance of our underground oil storage tank.

## **Congratulations and Thanks**

- Congratulations to Amy True and Kathy Moran for completing the 2016-2017 Aspiring Leadership Academy Cohort with the Diocese of Manchester Catholic Schools.
- With much appreciation to Claire Reed for volunteering for two weeks for the Medical Missionary Program in the Dominica Republic.
- Thank you to Joe deAlmeida, Paul Morrison and Al Hunt for their summer work and projects. Our school looks lovely and we are ready for students!
- Thank you to Sejo Becirovic who is volunteering as our bookkeeper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Segal, Mount Saint Mary Academy Principal

