

Ken Rasp to MCCEveryone, bcc: parents\_pk-12

Oct 9

Dear members of the Muskegon Catholic Central community:

Muskegon Catholic Central educates each student in spirit, mind and body by fostering personal excellence within the Catholic tradition, and we work each day to make certain that we are creating the best environment to fulfill that mission for our students. Since the beginning of August, when we began to search for a new principal for the elementary school, we have experienced an increase in enrollment and have recognized the need to make additional changes. In this letter, I want to communicate to you the results of our decisions.

Due to enrollment growth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, the MCC Management Team decided it was necessary to split the class and search for an additional staff member. We immediately posted the position and have been actively working to fill it. I am pleased to announce that Ms. Megan Gillette has been hired to teach in the Muskegon Catholic Central Elementary School. We are excited about the energy, enthusiasm and passion for teaching and learning that she will bring to her classroom each day. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Gillette to Team Crusader.

You already know from my previous email message that Marie Jones, a long-time MCC elementary school teacher, was selected to be the new elementary school principal. Following interviews with Ms. Gillette and before offering her the position, Ms. Grinnell and Mrs. Jones asked to speak with me. Our conversation, flowing from the need to educate by fostering personal excellence, concerned the possibility of moving Mrs. Johnson from Kindergarten to the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade position and asking Ms. Gillette to teach Kindergarten. In the opinion of the two principals, Ms. Gillette's previous experience better prepared her to work with the Kindergarten students. As a Master Teacher, Mrs. Johnson is absolutely prepared to step into a mid-year class split at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level and provide the necessary energy and collaboration in this important transition. After purposeful deliberations and prayerful discussion, the decision was made to move Mrs. Johnson to the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom and place Ms. Gillette as the Kindergarten teacher.

Realizing the importance of finding ways to accomplish these changes with as little disruption in the lives of our young students as possible, we have decided to make the transition in the following manner:

- Ms. Gillette's first day will be today, Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. She will work with Mrs. Johnson for the first three days.
- Mrs. Jones will communicate with parents via email on the afternoon of October 11<sup>th</sup> which students will be in Mrs. Mouradian's class and which students will be in Mrs. Johnson's class.
- On Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be introduced to Mrs. Johnson. She will invite those students that she will be teaching to follow her to their new classroom.

The process of finding a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher to replace Mrs. Jones has begun. Our hope is to find an appropriate candidate in the near future so that Mrs. Jones can complete her transition to elementary school principal. As always, the goal will be to find a teacher who will own the Mission of providing excellence in faith formation and academics.

It is exciting to be grappling with changes necessary because of enrollment increases. Please realize that our focus and attention as we collaborate on these important decisions is the simple but important question of which solution helps us serve the learning needs of our students in the best possible way.

I appreciate all you do to help us fulfill our mission of excellence in Catholic faith formation and academics. Your comments and insights are important to me. I can be reached via phone at [231.291.0324](tel:231.291.0324) or via email at [krasp@muskegoncatholic.org](mailto:krasp@muskegoncatholic.org).

May God's peace be yours!

Ken R. Rasp, President

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