

September 2016

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff at St. Columbanus School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2016-17 school year! School begins at 8:20 on Tuesday, September 6. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you in Christ to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education.

As the new principal at St. Columbanus, I am honored to be appointed to lead such a wonderful school with a rich tradition of family instilled with Catholic values. I would like to share a little bit about my background. I taught secondary English in grades 7-12 for over 17 years in upstate New York and served as director of religious education and catechetical leader in my parish for over 25 years. While completing my Building Leader Certification, I wore many hats; in my most recent administrative positions, I served as principal, instructional support coordinator and data analyst. I am hoping to combine all my teaching and leadership skills to actively serve the St. Columbanus community.

There are many exciting and dynamic transformations happening at St. Columbanus. Firstly, our 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Picciano, retired at the end of July, and our 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Pettersen left for family reasons. Please take time to say a prayer of thanks for all their years of service teaching our children. Secondly, Mrs. Niciu has transferred from 5th to 8th grade to become our 8th grade homeroom and 6-8 math teacher; Mrs. Fisher, the kindergarten teacher, is now returning to 3rd grade. For the new hires: Mr. Daniel Murphy, a science-certified graduate has accepted the position as our 6th grade homeroom and 6-8 science teacher. Ms. Keegan and Ms. Gentile have accepted positions as our 5th and 4th grade teachers. Ms. Sullivan is our new kindergarten teacher and is extremely excited to head our new Kindergarten Initiative Program.

Finally, please join us on Meet-the-Teacher Night on Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. I look forward to meeting and speaking with you at that time. Please consider joining our school volunteer program as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations. We seek volunteers to help us with the following activities: 1) Teacher-led instructional support, usually in the classroom 2) Reading with children who need extra help 3) School-wide events 4) Student recognition events. If you have any questions before school begins, please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Roche at 914-739-1200.

God Bless,

Bernadette Frohm, Principal