

Dear Families and Students,

I wanted to welcome you all to a year full of surprises and questions, not just in our courses but in our daily education. Being an educator in the Grade School, High School and University level for the past forty-three years I have to say this will be one of the most interesting years at school. As the New Pastor of St. Francis de Sales I wanted to welcome all of you to this new year with new experiences and new ways as the New Pastor. I am excited about this school year and know that working together we will have a wonderful year.

As I always said to my students especially in my graduate classes, "Don't anticipate just participate." This year truly holds true to that statement. There are many questions that will come up as we proceed, but if we are always thinking of what could be, we never focus on what we need to do at this moment. Our children are yearning to socialize with each other in ways that I am sure as parents you have never experienced. How many I have heard say they can't wait to get back to school. We as parents will worry, because that is what a good parent does. However, a great parents sets their children free in the midst of that worry knowing not only do they watch over their children but also God.

I am a very strong supporter of Catholic Education at all levels and therefore have worked very closely with our Principal and Staff to make sure that we are doing the very best as humanly possible to make sure we are placing your children in a safe and trusting environment. Again there will be many questions and concerns over the weeks and months. We will meet all of these head on as I daily meet with our Staff to assure the trust you have placed in us is met. Conversely because we are not God there are some issues we will not be able to satisfy for all parents. But that is where I challenge you as a person of Faith to walk in Faith, and not in Fear.

With my college education in the Sciences and over the past four years teaching Pre-Med and Nursing students at the University level I take the Covid Virus seriously taking all precautions required and then going into the world with faith and courage. We hope that as we begin this new and exciting year you will also take these same precautions and then go out into the world so that we can continue to grow in wisdom and strength as Jesus did when he returned from the temple at the age of twelve.

Know you are all in my prayers and thoughts
and welcome to the new Year

Fr. Ray Guthrie