



St. James School

Excellent Minds. Exceptional Hearts.

Good day Saint James Family

I am Dr. Bradley Swiger. I am both honored and humbled to be writing to you today as your new Principal at Saint James School.

I come to you from the North Hills area of city, Vincentian Academy to be specific. I have been in Catholic education for fourteen years, nine as a faculty member and five as the Assistant Principal of the school. Before I elaborate on my accomplishments, both professional and academic, I would like to tell you a short story about my journey to be here today. It will give you a better understanding of me, more completely than a litany of my qualifications.

A strange series of events brought me to Vincentian two years into my career in education, the same way a stranger series of events brought me to Saint James School. In both times in my life, the voice of the Holy Spirit was guiding me on where my ministry would be. I was being called to be a part of this special thing called Catholic education. The same way God was calling me fourteen years ago to be in Catholic education is the same way He is calling me now to be the educational and faith leader in St James School, and to be a part of your community.

Education was not my chosen career. For the first decade, I was a purchasing agent for several companies around the Pittsburgh area. Wanting more out of my work, I went back to school to earn a Master's Degree in Education, earning my teaching certificate through this process. Getting hooked on education, I continued to Duquesne University, where I earned a Master's in School Administration. Not resting on that, I enrolled in Capella University and completed a Doctorate in Education in a little under four years. My research focused on collaboration within an organization, and I hold that as the cornerstone of my work philosophy.

I would also like to provide an update on two recent staff retirements. Mrs. Sexton and Mrs. Scully have decided to retire at the end of this past year, as well as the school secretary Miss. Marcy. I would like to personally thank both of them for their years of service to the school and community and wish them the very best in the future. They will be missed. I am confident we will find excellent replacements to continue to provide the high standards that you have come to expect from Saint James School. Mrs. Sexton, Mrs. Scully, and Miss. Marcy have volunteered to talk with their successors to ensure that this transition period runs smoothly.

Our Lord has pointed me here and it is my goal to not only ensure that your daughters and sons get an exceptional education, but more importantly it is my task to guide the students as they walk in their journey of faith as Catholics. I look forward to being a part of your community and sharing our paschal feast at the altar of St James Parish in the weeks and months to follow. Most of all I want to ask for your prayers as I move forward in this task appointed to me.

Peace in Christ, Dr. Bradley Swiger