



PRESS RELEASE

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Organizational changes planned for St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School to better serve students, parents and the community

(Spartanburg, SC) – St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School in Spartanburg is reorganizing its structure and will soon appoint an interim principal. Starting in the fall, the school will change its focus to early primary education by closing its middle level classrooms. Students in grades 6-7-8 will be given the opportunity to attend area other Catholic schools. Additionally, current principal, Patti Lanthier, will retire at the end of the academic year. A process is currently underway to hire an interim principal who will lead the school during the restructuring until a new principal is hired. This appointment will occur soon.

When the school opens its doors in August, St. Paul will augment its existing K-4 program by adding a First Steps program for eligible families and students. Multiage classrooms will be utilized in grades K-5 through 5, which will allow teachers to more effectively identify student strengths and needs and deliver personalized and differentiated instruction.

Starting in the fall, in order to be able to continue in Catholic education through 12th grade, students entering grades 6, 7 and 8 can transfer to another Catholic school in the Greenville - Spartanburg area: St. Mary's Catholic School (Greenville), Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School (Greenville), or Prince of Peace Catholic School (Taylors) or St. Joseph Catholic School (Greenville). This will allow the middle school students to learn in a challenging, Catholic environment while having the opportunity to participate in the dozens of advanced academic classes, the arts, and extra-curricular activities that St. Paul the Apostle School cannot offer due to its small size.

The reorganization will result in the elimination of certain jobs within the school. These faculty and staff members will have the opportunity to apply for teaching positions in other Catholic schools. "I want to express my gratitude to these beloved teachers and staff members who have given so much of themselves to St. Paul the Apostle, its students and parents. We are also grateful for Principal Lanthier who led the school for almost two decades," said Sandra Leatherwood, Catholic school superintendent.

This restructuring is projected to move St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School toward creating a viable sustainability for the future of the school.

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