

Good morning St. John School Community,

Today I come to you with sad news for our school community. Mrs. Suzanne Sullivan, our Administrative Assistant, will finish her over 14 years of service at St. John School in August. She has decided to spend more time with her recently retired husband, Bobby, and to be closer to her home in Marshfield.

Suzanne began her tenure at St. John School in July 2010 when she was hired by Principal Charlotte Kelly. She was hired to continue the amazing work of then secretary, Mrs. Peg Hanley. Suzanne had been a parent at St. John School for years and was an active leader in the community. I can imagine that both Charlotte and Peg were thrilled that Suzanne accepted the position. Suzanne continued in her role at St. John School through the end of Mrs. Kelly's principalship, all of Mr. Sean Richardson's four-year tenure as principal and my first eight years as principal. She also worked closely with Fr. Michael McLellan and Fr. Tom. Over her time here, Suzanne has transcended all of us. She was the rock we leaned on for support, the ear that listened with kindness, the voice that told us what was right and just, and the heart that kept the soul of this school alive. She reminded us daily of the message that the Sisters of St. Joseph left this school with – to love the dear neighbor without distinction.

Suzanne will be forever known as the face of St. John School. When she answered the phone and kept the office in order, she was the face that everyone who set foot in St. John School knew, loved, and trusted. She knew every child as well as their family and their stories. She was able to make quick connections with new parents and deepen relationships with current parents over many years. She is the reason many families chose St. John School. They knew that Suzanne would take care of them and their child. She is also the reason that many families stay at St. John School – they know their child is in the loving embrace of Suzanne.

Besides being the face of St. John School, Suzanne has been an amazing partner for me. She knows everything about St. John School and kept the school moving in the right direction. From principal and pastor transitions to the COVID pandemic to rapidly increasing enrollment, Suzanne has been a constant.

Suzanne will be with us for part of August, ensuring that we have a smooth transition to her successor, which I will announce next week. She will then return

to St. John School for a celebration of her service on September 6 for our Opening of the Year Mass. I encourage you to join us for Mass and I will be inviting many others who have been impacted by Suzanne.

While this news makes our hearts hurt, please help me in sending love, prayers, and thoughts to Suzanne. She will always be an impactful member of our school community, leaving a lasting mark on everyone that has set foot in St. John School.

Chris