



March 31, 2020

Dear Parents, Parishioners, Faculty and Staff,

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs. Alise Ashford has been chosen to lead Holy Family Catholic School as principal for our 71st year, effective July 1, 2020. This comes at the completion of a thorough search process according to the guidelines of Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office (CSO).

I wish to thank our interview committee members for a job well done. They represented various committees of our church and school as well as groups within our Diocese who work with Catholic schools. Our search began in January 2020 by advertising locally, regionally and nationally through *The Advocate*, *The Commentator*, CSO Website, Catholic newspapers in South Louisiana, and through the online job posting portal of the National Catholic Educational Association located in Arlington, VA.

We were fortunate to have a number of applicants who responded to our search. After vetting applications for strength, three were chosen for interviews by the committee. The committee very carefully reviewed each candidate's qualifications within the criteria and standards of the diocese and our own school. At the end of the interview process, and after full discussion, the committee made a unanimous recommendation to me in the presence of Superintendent Dr. Melanie Palmisano that Mrs. Ashford be selected to be our principal with the title of interim removed.

The committee was impressed by Mrs. Ashford's communication style, her commitment to Catholic Education and the way her Catholic faith guides her life and decision-making. Her references and evaluations from the staff at Holy Family School were notable; especially the desire of current teachers and staff to return next year under her leadership. Mrs. Ashford presented ideas for the continued development of Holy Family School and its staff in forming the whole child in the educational process. She also gave insights into more long-range planning and financial vision for Holy Family School in the coming years.

I would like to thank our 2019-2020 staff at Holy Family School for stepping up and making this year one of academic excellence and pride, even with a difficult beginning last summer. I know that no principal is universally accepted by acclamation, but it is my prayer that this honest and objective process will be appreciated by all members of the church and school community.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Holy Family's educational ministry. We want 2020-2021 to be another great year for Holy Family School. May God bless you all and keep you safe during this time of the COVID-19 challenge.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. David Allen