

Dear St. Mary's School Family,

First, I want to say **"Thank you!"**

Thank you all for coming together while working with our teachers and staff during this time of constant change.

This community has been such a blessing of support, love, acceptance, and hope during difficult times. At this time, I wanted to offer some reassurance of where we are at and where we are heading. We are moving through the school year, educating your children, encouraging them to be life-long leaders with compassionate hearts, who model their lives after Jesus, and have a deep commitment to serving others. We are loving your children, laughing with them, and celebrating their successes, while dusting off their scraped knees. We are still right here, teaching them about and modeling for them the ever present and constant love of our Lord.

We are constantly monitoring, modifying and adjusting our measures to keep all of your children, our faculty and staff safe in regard to COVID-19. We are in direct and constant communication with the local health department and infectious disease doctors, who help us respond, address, and surveil the situation on a continual basis.

Last, but not least, we are all going to miss Mr. Arwood. We are so grateful for the light, love, and joy that he shared with us. We wish him and his family all the best in the next phase of their journey. I am honored to come forward and continue on this path as your principal. I miss teaching the religion classes and having many of your children every day in class. However, as a principal, I will continue being a part of their religious formation, encouraging the students, praying with them, participating in the Sacraments, and fostering a Christian learning community around them. I have loved each of my roles while at St. Mary's School and in the Diocese of Knoxville. I have worn many hats, from Aftercare Director, substitute teacher, middle school math and science teacher, 4th grade teacher at St. Dominics, 5th grade teacher at St. Mary's School, Pre-K through 5th grade religion teacher, assistant instructor for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the Diocese, and now as principal. I am grateful for each step in my faith journey leading up to the this point and am appreciative of God's graces. I have felt the love and support of both our school and church community in each and every one of these transitions; my family and I are looking forward to where God has placed me now and will continue to serve this faith filled community that we call our St. Mary's family.

If you have struggled with email communications this week, please know we are in the middle of transitioning our email platform, the emails will remain the same we just need to adjust from the old to the new. We are also going to extend collecting money for our Walkathon into next week, friends and family may send in checks if the Eventgroove platform does not open back up and we will calculate Monday- we are so close to meeting our goal!

Please know that we are here. While we may not have the same opportunity for gathering, we are still a community. **A family!** Share your stories with us. Know that we

are listening and loving with the same fervor that we have always had here at St. Mary's School. Thank you.

Anchored in Love

Becky Frye

**Principal
St. Mary's Catholic School Johnson City**

(office) 423-282-3397 | (email) becky.frye@stmarysjc.org