



St. Joseph's Catholic School
PK – 8th

Principal Mrs. Jackie Kirkham

750 N Bill Gray Road / Cottonwood, AZ 86326
www.sjcms.net / info@sjcms.net / Phone (928) 649-0624 / Fax (928) 649-1191

"Academics...Discipline...Service...all in the Spirit of Christ."

June 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

As many of you know, I have been hired to be the new principal of St. Joseph's. I am very excited to begin this adventure and have been actively involved with summer interviews. As a graduate at Northern Arizona University, I received my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership in 1992. This where I met Greg, and where I received my undergraduate degree in elementary education. There are many changes in the Kirkham household. Greg is officially retired, our daughter is officially starting college, and our son is officially driving, so please feel free to direct your prayers our way!

I have spent the past 27 years in public education teaching 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade. A majority of my experience was spent teaching middle school math. I have also coached, sponsored clubs, mapped curriculum, mentored new teachers, and been involved in student discipline. Although I have thoroughly enjoyed working in public education, I felt a desire to combine the two areas I am most passionate about – my faith and the education of children. It was without hesitation that I accepted the position as principal of St. Joseph's Catholic School.

My Catholic faith has always been essential in my life. My childhood parish was St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Phoenix. This is where I received all my sacraments, and where Greg and I were married 24 years ago. As a couple, we led the Engaged Encounter Program for the Catholic Church in Flagstaff for many years, and we also made our Cursillos. All of these events affirmed the importance of Christ's presence in my life and in my marriage. I feel very fortunate to be able to continue this journey at St. Joseph's.

Currently, we are in the hiring process and have several great candidates. I am proud to announce that Jill Barteau, a valued member of our staff, will be taking the lead as our new St. Joseph Preschool Director. Jill has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She has been an early childhood educator for 13 years. Jill has teaching experiences in Preschool through 2nd grade and has instructed at St. Joseph for ten years. Early childhood development is Jill's passion, and as a result she has pursued many professional opportunities throughout her career in the areas of early brain development and appropriate practices in early childhood education. She is very excited to have the opportunity to work with the preschool program. The interview team is currently working to fill the math and language arts positions that were previously held by Mr. Hernandez and Mrs. Copp. Both teachers will be greatly missed, and we wish them the very best.

Some of my summer goals are to improve the parking lot by providing clear signs and markings for parents. This should improve student drop-off in the morning and make for a smoother transition before and after school. I will also have the school's technology systems evaluated to see what changes are necessary to provide better internet for students. I plan to purchase several new computers, and have our existing ones serviced so they are more efficient. St. Joseph's has purchased new science textbooks for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, and a new religious curriculum for the school. We will also be offering more art classes for our students.

One of the items that reinforces our Catholic identity is school uniforms. In order to ensure consistency, it is important that all students adhere to the policy. Attached is a copy of our dress code. This is helpful for summer shopping and for purchasing acceptable footwear. A future newsletter will inform you of the uniform exchange dates and times.

Thank you for making St. Joseph's an incredible school. Your parental support has made St. Joseph's the successful school it is. I look forward to meeting each of your beautiful families. Have a safe and blessed summer!

Faithfully,

Jackie Kirkham
Principal