



## NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAINT GABRIEL PARISH



8/17/2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to our new community members and welcome back to our existing families. We look forward to another exciting school year at Bridgeport Catholic Academy. It seems like just yesterday we were saying "Have a wonderful summer, we'll see you in August," and now here we are, welcoming you back.

This has been a very busy and unusual summer for us. We have been directly impacted by the national teacher shortage. As you may have known, we began the summer with five openings on our staff. We are excited to welcome Mr. James Tyler to our Middle School as our new Mathematics Instructor/Seventh Grade Homeroom. Mr. Tyler joins us from St. Angela School and is currently completing his Doctorate. We are equally excited to welcome Mrs. Michaelina Hayes as our new PreK 4 instructor. (Miss Mary Catherine Lifonti has moved to PreK 3.) Mrs. Hayes is a longtime BCA aide and recently completed her Master's in Early Childhood Education at National Louis University. Please join us in giving them both a big Bandit welcome.

At the same time, we have not yet secured permanent faculty members for Third Grade, Fourth Grade and our Middle School Science/Fifth Grade Homeroom positions. Mrs. Thompson has worked tirelessly since May to recruit candidates and she and I continue to work closely with our Archdiocesan Recruiter and with the Big Shoulders Fund Recruiter. In fact, Mrs. Thompson has three interviews scheduled for today with potential candidates.

We will continue to pursue candidates and are optimistic that we will have them in place soon. In the meantime, because the students are returning tomorrow, Mrs. Lillian Buckley, former principal, will serve as our fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Sharon Zapata, current middle school aide will step into our fifth grade position, and a combination of Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Murphy and I will act as our interim third grade teacher. We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs. MaryLu Scorza, who will be available if need be.

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**Bridgeport Catholic Academy**

**Principal: Mr. Daniel Flaherty**

**Assistant Principal: Mrs. Katie Thompson**

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We understand this is not the ideal beginning to the school year but are pleased that the entire faculty is dedicated to providing all of our students with an excellent Catholic education.

I will keep you up to date as the staffing arrangements develop.

I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow, bright and early!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel Flaherty", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Flaherty  
Principal  
Bridgeport Catholic Academy &  
Saint Gabriel Catholic School