



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Anne Marie Cox, (515) 237-5057

acox@dmdiocese.org

New Leadership Team Named for St. Albert Catholic Schools

The Diocese of Des Moines today is naming a newly organized leadership team for St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs. The team will begin this summer.

The new leadership team structure stems from a strategic planning process that recommended last December that the school restructure for a new beginning, a refounding of the school for the future.

In early April, it was announced Vernon Dobelmann will lead the team as Executive Director. He will be focused on a culture of philanthropy and the other members of the leadership team will focus on internal operations. This new structure allows more faculty and staff collaboration to further the mission of St. Albert Schools.

We are pleased to announce the following new hires:

- Angela Whitfield, an established educator with more than 20 years of experience, will be the Director of Academics, PK-12. She will look at scope and sequence of the academic program, cultivates teacher leadership, and works to improve instruction and uses data for school improvement. She is currently the Manager of Youth Programs at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. She has taught in both public and Catholic schools. She has extensively used data to improve student performance and improve curriculum. Prior to her current role, she has also worked as the Assistant Director of Adult Education and the Read Right Coordinator at Metropolitan Community College. She currently has Nebraska licensure as a Curriculum Supervisor and Elementary K-6.
- Patrick Ryan, a St. Albert alumnus and 14-year teaching veteran at St. Albert Schools, will be the Associate Director of Curriculum. He will be responsible for working with the Director of Academics to ensure the successful integration of scope and sequenced curriculum. He will help with improving and supporting teachers. He currently is a fifth grade classroom teacher and Head Varsity Football Coach. He has an Administrative License and Master Educator K-8 Reading license in Iowa.

- Donald George, an experienced administrator of early childhood education programs in Omaha for the past 20 years, will be the Director of Early Childhood & KidzKare. He has extensive knowledge of best practices in early childhood programs including evaluation and selection of programs, policies and curriculum. He is currently the director at Premier Academy Child Enrichment Center but has experience with a Head Start program and spent seven years with the Bright Horizons program at First National Child Development Center.
- Katie Grudle is a 2004 St. Albert graduate and a current parent will be the Director of Mission and Campus Life. She has served Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart for 11 years as campus minister, theology teacher and providing other student services, she will create a climate at St. Albert Schools that cultivates and maintains high standards for student behavior, learning, attendance and safety with a strong sense of Catholic identity. She manages the social, emotional, physical and spiritual programming at the school.

“The current administrative team is to be commended for their hard work and dedication over the years. St. Albert’s plays an instrumental role in educating students in the Council Bluffs area and the school has a rich history of educating successful alumnae,” said diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday.

The Diocese of Des Moines includes 80 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.