

July 9, 2019

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Kenneth W. Soistman, President Michael Kelleher, Principal

Dear All Saints Students, Parents, and Teachers,

I would like to take an opportunity to introduce myself and to share why I feel so much joy and excitement about joining the All Saints Community. I also want to thank everyone for the warm welcome I've received in the lead up to my new role as your principal. Danielle, my wife, and my children (Emanuela, Joseph, Teresa, and Baby #4 due Dec. 8) feel blessed to call ourselves Knights.

My family was fortunate to attend some of the incredible end of year events that were held at All Saints that highlighted the beauty, love, and dignity of this school. For example, we were able to enjoy the Spring Carnival with you all. Perhaps you saw my son Joseph slide down the inflatable slide countless numbers of times. Also, we were really impressed with the spring musical – "Madagascar, Jr." – along with the entire cast and crew that worked so hard to perform such a special production. My family went home that night singing, "I like to move it, move it!" Lastly, I was in awe at the love and attention to detail that was poured in to the eighth grade graduation ceremony. Each student was specifically highlighted in a way that made the evening incredibly personal. Those living traditions make All Saints the special place that it is. Look for those traditions to continue.

Perhaps you would be interested to learn a little bit about me? For example, in my free time, I really like to play the guitar, ride my bike very long distances, and work in my garden. But most importantly, I love Catholic Schools! I have taught in Catholic Schools in Houston, TX, East Los Angeles, CA, South Bend, IN, and here in Richmond at St. Benedict School. I have have also been the principal at St. Bernadette Catholic School in Springfield, VA and interim principal at Saint Edward-Epiphany in Richmond. I love to see students learn, grow, and mature in a Christ-centered school. Which is why I'm really excited to be at All Saints.

But, just like most of you, Richmond is my home – I live one mile away from All Saints. And Saint Bridget School is where I attended grades K-8th grade in the 1980's. Actually, my dad and his siblings all attended St. Paul's School on Fendall Ave in the 1950's which is now part of All Saints School. So, to have the opportunity to be part of All Saints is one of the greatest blessings in my life.

There is nothing that I want more than for each student to succeed by being the best school possible. And to you, the students, each one of you deserves a school with excellent teachers, great resources, and an environment that allows you to thrive. Know that I will work hard to help you achieve your academic and personal goals. Therefore, please invite all the saints of God to pray for me as I begin this journey with you. Please know that my prayers are with you.

With all the saints,