

St. Mary's Visitation, St. Stanislaus News Release

New Principal Announcement – June 26, 2024

Dear St. Mary's Visitation, St. Stanislaus, and Sacred Heart Parish and School Communities,

We thank all of our parishioners, school parents, teachers, and staff for offering valuable input that was considered carefully during our search for a new shared principal for St. Mary's Visitation and St. Stanislaus Schools. After a thorough search and final recommendation by our search committee composed of members of the school and parish communities, we are happy to announce our new shared principal. We are grateful to the search committee members for spending many hours to make sure that we have the best possible principal for our schools.

We wish to welcome Mrs. Camille DeLano as our new principal for St. Mary's Visitation and St. Stanislaus Schools. Bishop Lohse, with the Diocesan Office of Schools, has given his approval and blessing for Mrs. DeLano to serve as our new shared principal. As Mrs. Murphy before her, Mrs. DeLano has all the experience and capability necessary to lead both schools and to help our families and students, teachers and staff, to grow and thrive, spiritually and academically, and in mind, body, and soul. Mrs. DeLano has 27+ years of experience in Catholic education, 25+ years as a teacher, 16 of those at St. Stanislaus School, and 7 years as a Catholic school principal at St. Basil School in South Haven. She is a graduate of Michigan State University (BA), the University of Georgia (BFA), and Western Michigan University (MA-Ed. Leadership). Mrs. DeLano was raised right here within miles of both schools and has been a parishioner of St. Stanislaus most of her life. She remains living nearby with her husband Mr. Brett DeLano and enjoys time camping, visiting family, and her two Golden Retrievers. She also has one step-daughter, Casey. Mrs. DeLano will greatly enjoy being "back at home" here with us and working with the parents, students, staff and parishioners of our parishes and schools. Please greet her warmly when you see her around our school buildings or at Mass in one of our three parishes over the next few months.

Our goal and intention continues to be to grow both schools, increase enrollment, and solidify and strengthen both academics and our Catholic identity. Both schools have a rich tradition and heritage in northern Allegan County. They each bring unique gifts in educating our children. Mrs. DeLano will work with us to strengthen the unique character of both SMV and St. Stanislaus Schools.

We are grateful for the opportunity that has come to us to lose no time in developing and strengthening our beloved schools. We are also thankful for the dedication of all of our faculty, staff, parents, and parishioners now and through the many years of our history who have and do work so hard for the Catholic education of our beloved children. May Mary, our patroness, and St. Stanislaus, our patron, guide all of us in continuing our mission to form young hearts and minds for Christ, for their future vocations, and for the good of our families, the Church, and the world!

Gratefully in Christ,
Fr. Derda and Fr. Adams

From our Principal, Mrs. Camille DeLano...

Dear Members of the SMV, St. Stanislaus and Sacred Heart School and Parish Communities,

While many of you know me, for those who do not, I am writing to introduce myself to you as the new Principal of St. Mary's Visitation and St. Stanislaus Schools. It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I return "home" and I am eager to collaborate with all members of our school community to continue the tradition of academic excellence for which our two schools are known. I bring with me over 25 years of experience in education, with a passion for fostering a supportive learning environment where every student can thrive. Throughout my career, I have been committed to nurturing the faith life, academic achievements, and personal growth of students, ensuring they are prepared for success in an ever-changing world.

I firmly believe in the power of collaboration among teachers, staff, students, parents, and parishioners. Together, we can create a learning environment that encourages development of the whole child, growing in God's love and using His gifts to learn more about the world around them.

I look forward to meeting each of you and getting to know the unique strengths and aspirations of our students and families. Please feel free to reach out to me at delano@st-stans.net, or cdelano@smv.school.org, or stop by my office to say hello. Let us work together to make this academic year one filled with faith, achievement, growth, and joy for all.

Warm regards,

Camille A. DeLano