



ST. FRANCIS de SALES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Aiming for Christian Excellence

April 3, 2017

Dear St. Francis de Sales Community,

Twenty-six years ago, I stood in front of the Parents and Teachers and shared with them my vision for the school. I told them I was not here to run, to manage or to lead the school but rather to administer it. I broke that word, "administer", into two parts. The first is "ad", which is the abbreviation for anno domini and signifies the years since the birth of Christ. Jesus is the primary, first reason for the school, and all of my decisions would be based on this premise. The second part of "administer" is "minister". I, as principal, would minister to the school community of St. Francis de Sales. I would serve and help wherever and whenever I could.

In looking back, I have tried to keep the vision of Jesus in the forefront of my principalship. By ministering to you, I have also tried to share my faith in word and deed.

In looking forward, I feel it is time to retire. By "retire", I do not mean "to give up one's career". I still plan to be active and involved. I will always be present for you and will continue to minister to the community in any way I can. Just as I did twenty-six years ago, I will break the work "retires" into a vision statement. The prefix "re" means "again". I will again continue to minister as much as I can. The other part, "tire", does not mean to me "not being able to go on because of fatigue". Rather I envision a new set of "tires" to take me in different directions. I am on a new journey.

A final quote from St. Francis de Sales: "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow: The same Everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day."

Thank you for allowing me to know the many faces of Jesus through you and to minister in this school.

With Gratitude and Affection,

Mr. Roy Rash
Principal