

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **PIUS XI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES NEW PRINCIPAL RYAN KRIENKE**

MILWAUKEE, WI, May 11, 2021– Pius XI Catholic High School announces the appointment of Ryan Krienke as its 13<sup>th</sup> principal. Krienke will succeed Mark Ostap who served as principal from 2017-2021. Most recently Ryan served as principal of Prince of Peace Catholic School in Milwaukee and before that, Director of Schools for Seton Catholic Schools Network. He will begin his tenure at Pius XI on July 1, 2021.

“Ryan’s reputation, experience, and intense focus on student outcomes made him the ideal choice for this important role,” said Jack Herbert, President of Pius XI. “As we seek to deliver our mission of ensuring every student reaches their unique and highest potential, Ryan will lead by example, collaborate with faculty and staff, and will help meet the goals defined through our newly adopted strategic plan.”

Krienke, a resident of Oconomowoc, WI, has more than ten years of experience in Catholic Schools within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

This announcement comes as Pius XI is refocusing efforts to strengthen the academic success of all its students, especially those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Krienke’s experience in diverse Catholic school environments with an emphasis on raising standards made him stand out among the committee tasked with identifying and choosing the school’s new leader.

“The committee had a difficult choice because the pool of applicants was so strong,” said Rick Pendergast, head of the search committee. “Ryan is the ideal choice to lead Pius XI going forward and I am very confident that Pius XI is in most capable hands.”

“I’ve known Ryan for 12 years professionally and have seen him grow into a competent, authentic, humble leader wholly invested in Catholic education in Milwaukee,” said Dr. Kathleen Cepelka, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. “He is a proven leader who is completely committed to the Pius XI mission.”

“The schools that I have served as a teacher and a leader up to this point, all have been feeders of Pius XI Catholic High School,” said Krienke. “Pius XI is a school with a rich tradition and bright future. Its success is critical to the mission of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and I cannot wait to get started with the important work ahead.”

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Krienke, a Delafield native, is a graduate of Valparaiso University and holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Marquette University. He and his wife Bethany have twin daughters, Bridget and Keegan.

*Founded in 1929 by the School Sisters of St. Francis and the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers, Pius XI Catholic High School offers a values-based education of extraordinary breadth and quality that is grounded in the traditions of those founding orders. Pius XI is one of the most diverse co-educational Catholic high schools in the Midwest, serving over 700 students from all ethnic, geographic, and financial backgrounds from 65 zipcodes. For more information visit <http://www.piusxi.org>.*

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