

**Daniel J. Breen**

## **Statement of Educational Philosophy and Leadership**

A great Catholic school is one that makes Our Lord proud: passionate, loving, prayerful, academically excellent, hard-working, diverse, devoted to serving others, and dedicated to the best interests of children.

Every person who comes in contact with our school will be better for it. While our school is a business, it must feel more familial than corporate. How? We will build relationships by spending time with people and getting to know them. We will also embrace what St. Teresa of Kolkata taught us – that “I love you” and “I’m sorry” are two of the hardest things to say. What great things to say in a school community!

I embrace the idea of servant leadership by striving to put the school’s mission into daily action and by doing myself everything that I ask of others. I will strive to inspire the entire school community to give their full support by providing *passion-filled, meaningful* opportunities for our students. People support schools when they see passion and vision undergirded by a sensible path to success. My narrative for the school will be built on these themes.

Beauty, goodness and leadership will be the cornerstone of our curriculum. We will value timeless teaching techniques, but we will also embrace curricular innovation and the best of modern technology.

We will pray individually and together, and we will have a rich sacramental life as a community. Reflection will have a place of significance in our school. Mass will be the cornerstone of our community gatherings. Our school will be known for the integrity of its mission, the excellence of its programs, and the love in its students’ hearts. Our school will smile and value a sense of humor.

While I have high expectations as a school leader, those expectations are only healthy and effective when accompanied by feedback, candor, and, most importantly, support. Trust is at the center of school life – it is the key ingredient in good leadership and in good teaching. That trust is earned through hard work and sincerity.

Leaders can be transactional or transformational. I seek to be transformational – to rise above the mundane, to inspire, to create, to discuss big ideas, and to move our school forward in humility and in accord with God’s will.

Schools must be student-centered in their practices; we adults must be the ones to adjust. Teachers must know in their hearts that each child is formed in the image of God, and thus has innate dignity. Each child deserves to be known in school, to have a voice in each class and activity, and to learn something new every day. Since we learn by doing, our students must learn faith, service and academics by fully experiencing them in their lives at school.