

Students at All Saints Academy in Morrisville dressed as Saints for All Saints Day 2023.

What Makes Our Catholic Schools Unique in Vermont

have the great pleasure of working with the 12 Catholic schools in Vermont. Each school has its own unique identity and disposition. I continue to learn more every day about our schools and so appreciate the staff, parents, and community that continue to support them. These unique dispositions are manifested by the influence of the staff and the greater community over the years the schools have existed. I meet with the principals regularly to assist them in any way I can. It has been a joy to get to know them and learn about all that they do and offer. Their expertise and passion for the students and staff are evident.

While each school has its uniqueness, they all have our Catholic mission as the common thread that binds and brings us together. Given the challenges in our world today, I believe the work we are doing in our schools both religiously and academically is of utmost importance. The routine of prayer and reflection, surrounded by academic rigor, is imperative. Daily reminders of being kind and empathetic to others are important, especially when we have differing opinions. These important values and traditions in our schools are truly what our students need as we prepare them for their future.

As an example, let's look at All Saints Catholic Academy in Morrisville (formally The Bishop John A. Marshall School). Head of School Carrie Wilson and Vice Principal Jennifer Nordenson have both been part of the school since it opened in 1998; both began as teachers. Their passion and commitment to the students, teachers, staff, parents, and community is evident in everything they do. This is one of many examples of what makes our schools so unique — their longevity and care for their school. I have heard from both of them that the school is part of their family. We are blessed to have them in leadership positions at All Saints Catholic Academy.

It's important that all our Catholic school leaders give their students feedback and guidance. Supportive feedback often comes from people we interact with regularly, such as teachers, staff, friends, relatives, clergy, and family members. These trusted relationships that are built over time and are available to provide positive or direct feedback are so important and needed. This is another example of why our schools are unique. Our schools generally have smaller class sizes as well as fewer students in the school overall. This alone fosters the opportunity to develop many positive, trusted relationships. In addition, schools have unique connections with parishes and the ministry that surrounds each.

I believe that the combination of all these factors makes working,



learning, and parenting in our Catholic schools truly unique, special, and very much needed for the successful journey of our students and to prepare them for the next stages of their lives.

Sincerely,

David Young, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Burlington

All Saints Catholic Academy, Morrisville (PK-8)

(802) 888-4758 • allsaintsvt.org

Christ the King School, Burlington (PS-8)

(802) 862-6696 • cksvt.org

Christ the King School, Rutland (PK-8)

(802) 773-0500 • cksrutland.org

Good Shepherd Catholic School, St. Johnsbury (PS-8)

(802) 751-8223 • goodshepherdschoolvt.org

Mater Christi School, Burlington (PS-8)

(802) 658-3992 • mcschool.org

Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland (9–12)

(802) 775-0151 • msjvermont.org

Rice Memorial High School, South Burlington (9-12)

(802) 862-6521 • rmhsvt.org

St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski (PS-8)

(802) 655-2600 • sfxvt.org

St. Michael Catholic School, Brattleboro (PK-12)

(802) 254-6320 • stmichaelschool.vermontcatholic.org

St. Monica-St. Michael School, Barre (PK-8)

(802) 476-5015 • smsmschool.org

St. Paul's Catholic School, Barton (PK-8)

(802) 525-6578 • stpaulscatholicschool.org

School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington

(PK-8) (802) 442-2446 • sacredheartbennington.org