

From the Pastor:

Dear Our Lady of the Wayside School Families,

I would like to introduce to you our new principal, Mr. David Wood. You will find his introduction letter below. David Wood is a very dedicated, talented Catholic educator. I believe he will be a great asset to our school and parish.

Mr. Paul Maloney, Vicariate 1 Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago says this about David Wood: "David Wood has exhibited successful administrative leadership in key areas of school curriculum, student development, faculty rapport, and school advancement. He will be a fine principal for Our Lady of the Wayside School and parish community".

Sister Ann Busch, Principal of Saint Ann School in Barrington has these comments about David Wood: "Mr. Wood is well prepared and will do an outstanding job as principal at Our Lady of the Wayside. He is very familiar with all the aspects of Administration. He is a good listener; works well with the faculty, respected by the students and communicates well with the parents. He has a strong commitment to his Catholic faith and to the Catholic identity of the School. He is an Asset to the Catholic School system".

*Rev. Edward R. Fialkowski
Our Lady of the Wayside, Pastor
Dean of Deanery 1-D*

Dear Our Lady of the Wayside School Community,

My name is David Wood and I have been named your new principal. I have had the pleasure of working as a Catholic Educator for the past ten years. For the past six years I have served the St. Anne School Community in Barrington, IL as both a teacher and administrator. My first three years at St. Anne were spent as a middle school Language Arts teacher. It was in my third year at St. Anne that I received the Heart of the School Award for Leadership from the Archdiocese of Chicago and began to think more about taking a more active role in administration. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of a special administrative program at Loyola University in Chicago which was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago. It was there I received my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. As I worked to receive my administrative certificate, the opportunity to become the Assistant Principal at St. Anne arose. I have been blessed to serve as the assistant principal at St. Anne for the past three years, being mentored by our principal, Sister Ann Busch, along the way.

Prior to joining the St. Anne family I worked as a fifth and sixth grade teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School in Winter Haven, Florida. Since I had grown up as a Lutheran I was unable to teach religion class to my homeroom but did sit in on the daily religion lessons being taught by another teacher at our school. As I watched the students react to those daily religion lessons and participated with them in the weekly school Masses, I realized my calling to become a member of the Catholic Church. I joined the RCIA program in my second year along with two other teachers at the school and was confirmed into the Catholic faith on my actual birthday in the year 2000.

While being an educator is such a wonderful experience, being able to share your faith while educating is even more remarkable. I have always enjoyed having the opportunity to attend Mass with my students and have worked to be a good role model for them. I serve as a Eucharistic Minister at the school Masses and enjoy sitting with a different class at each school Mass so that I have the opportunity to sing and pray with all of the students throughout the year.

I look forward to making the transition from St. Anne to Our Lady of the Wayside in both body and spirit. I have heard many wonderful things about your parish and school, and I am anxious to begin my tenure there. Please know that I am coming to you fully dedicated to my role as principal of Our Lady of the Wayside. I look forward to having the opportunity to meet all of you in the coming months and share my enthusiasm for my faith and Catholic education with you.

God Bless, David Wood