



DEACON RICK WAGNER

PRESIDENT, GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 15, 2025



I am writing to share some bittersweet news that will impact our school community.

As he shared with the faculty and staff earlier today, James McNeany, in his twelfth year serving as Principal of Guerin Catholic High School, will be stepping down from that position effective at the end of this school year. James will assume the role of Executive Director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA). The INPEA serves as an advocate, promotes engagement, and strives for the advancement of non-public schools. It is recognized as the essential voice advancing excellence and equitable access for all non-public schools in Indiana.

I first met James in 2007 when we both started as principals of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. In 2013, James succeeded me as the Principal of GCHS. I returned to GCHS in 2021 as its President and have been privileged to work alongside him.

The qualities that have made James an outstanding school administrator (and Indiana District 5 Principal of the Year!) will serve him well in his new role with the INPEA. He is well-spoken, knowledgeable, and intuitive. He is both passionate and compassionate.

I would like to thank James, both personally and on behalf of the entire Guerin Catholic community, for his years of dedicated, faith-filled leadership. The many and varied duties of the principal position are daunting. It takes a special person to accept responsibility for maintaining the steadfast mission and vision of a faith-based school, especially in the times we live in today. James has done that remarkably well and the community will be forever indebted to him for sharing his expertise and gifts with us these past twelve years.

It is bittersweet to write a letter to announce James' departure from Guerin Catholic. He leaves big shoes to fill. That said, it is important to look to the greater good. James, in his new role with the INPEA, will have the opportunity to use his gifts to serve *many* schools and they will be very well-served.

Please join me in sharing our gratitude for his service! May God bless him in this next stage of his ministry.

Note: I have already been in contact with the diocese and we are formulating a strategy for hiring the next principal of Guerin Catholic. Our goal is to have someone in place no later than the end of April. More information on those efforts will be forthcoming in the weeks to follow.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Wagner', written over a horizontal line.

Deacon Rick Wagner
President