

Sept. 6, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the new Extended Day Program (EDP) Director, I want to welcome you to a new school year. This time of year is always a little bittersweet; we are sad to see the warm days of summer come to an end, but there is so much to look forward to as the children return to the Saint Benedict community. I want to share with you a little about myself and my plans for your children in the EDP.

I am a career Catholic school educator with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Education. I have been a part of the St. Ben's community for many years, both as a parent of two children in the school, and later as part of the EDP staff. I taught Religion at Mater Dei Prep for six years before taking an opportunity to teach at Saint John Vianney for the past two years. I am thrilled to be returning to St. Ben's as the Director of the EDP. My philosophy throughout my career has always been "It's all about the kids." Our children spend the majority of their time at school, and EDP children spend even more time there. With that in mind, I have some plans to make their time with us in the EDP supportive to the children's emotional, educational, and spiritual needs.

After school, children need time to decompress and unwind from their day, therefore we always offer playtime and snacks. I am also working to provide activities and "clubs" to enhance their experience. Some activities I hope to provide are dance, yoga, art, sports, and book club. Students from SJV will help facilitate these activities.

We will also have time for homework. St. Benedict staff and SJV students will be available to assist and tutor children. While we will work to complete homework, it is not my intention to make students work until it is complete. Any homework that remains will have to be done at home, giving you the opportunity to connect with your children and stay aware of their learning achievements and needs.

I will provide opportunities for the children to feel connected to each other as we are all part of the St. Benedict Community; belonging is a huge component of spiritual growth. We will have group movie days, special occasion parties, birthday celebrations, and other activities to build our EDP community.

Please be attentive to one more important change. EDP pick up will now be located at the middle wing door around the left side of the school. Please do not drive around to the back of the school on the playground side. When driving into the school parking lot, please turn left to drive around the school and proceed to the second set of doors, number 16.

I am so excited to meet you and your children. I am committed to their safety and physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. There will be more information forthcoming about our programs and events. Please feel comfortable reaching out to me at any time.

Sincerely,

Prudence Ciccone  
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