



St. Mary's Catholic School

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An Open Letter to St. Mary's Parents and Students:

Three years. 1.576800 minutes. Where did it all go? I would like to personally thank each and everyone one of you for welcoming me to St. Mary's School and to Vegreville. My time here has been the absolute highlight of my career and I recently shared with a colleague from another school that "everyone in education should have the chance to work at a St. Mary's". What does that mean? It means that I would love every teacher, administrator, support staff worker and custodian to work in a building where faith and students are always the priority. A place where parents are engaged in their child's education and everyone is on the same team when it comes to supporting and caring for the school and Catholic education. To me that is St. Mary's. A Catholic school utopia where every person in the building wants the best for your child and every day they go above and beyond to be role-models of faith and to inspire and instill a love of learning in their hearts (which can be tricky with teenagers).

With every fiber of my being, THANK YOU! Thank you to the students for allowing me to be your principal, to care for you, to want the best for you and for sharing your school with me. You have my heart.

To the parents, your children are a gift from God. As someone that cannot have children of her own, the fact that I was able to help nurture your children, share our Catholic faith, travel with them and watch them grow into such phenomenal human beings is the greatest blessing of all. Thank you for sending your children to St. Mary's school and for allowing me to share in their educational and spiritual journey.

I have been overwhelmed by the cards, gifts, flowers and well-wishes from so many within our school community. I will keep our school family in my prayers and I hope you will pray for my husband and I while we spend our year abroad in China. It is hard to say good-bye, but our wonderful school remains in the best hands. Principal Jim Salsbury and the whole staff will continue to care for the students at St. Mary's School and our excellent academic programming, strong athletic teams, clubs/groups and all extra-curricular activities will continue to flourish.

If you wish to keep in touch, my school e-mail will remain active. Have a wonderful summer and God Bless each and every one of you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. You have truly made the past three years the best of my entire career.
Tanya Thiessen