



TO: Costa Catholic Academy Community
Galesburg, IL

FROM: Dr. Sharon Weiss
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 16, 2016

I was notified that there is a parent/guardian survey that is being distributed by a group that calls itself, "Concerned Parents of Costa" or "CPC." The content focuses on the leadership of Principal Jackie Nieu Kirk at Costa Catholic Academy.

Please note: this survey has in *no way* been authorized by the Administration of Costa Catholic Academy nor has it been approved by the Office of Catholic Schools, Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

As Superintendent of Schools and the educational advisor to our Bishop, Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, I would like to briefly clarify the process that is in diocesan school policy A-101:

"The Bishop is responsible for the organization and administration of education in his Diocese. He is advised and assisted by the Superintendent of Schools."

Furthermore, as stated in diocesan policy A-211:

"In the selection of a person to assume the administrative leadership of a school, the pastor/canonical pastor is required to have the Superintendent of Schools or their designate review and approve the credentials, qualifications and faith commitment of the candidates... The administrator of a single parish elementary school is appointed by the pastor. The administrator of an interparish/regional elementary school is appointed by pastor/canonical pastor... No principal may be hired by a parish elementary school, interparish/regional elementary school, or diocesan high school without the prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools."

The Office of Catholic Schools fully supports the selection of Mrs. Nieu Kirk as the Principal of Costa Catholic Academy. School policy was fulfilled in her selection and therefore, she has been hired to administrate the school under the direct supervision of Father Bill Miller, Canonical Pastor. To continue to question her leadership via unauthorized surveys is simply disobedient and disrespectful of Catholic schools' policy and the authority of our Bishop and his Superintendent of Schools.

In his *Fifteenth Festival Letter-AD 2017* entitled, "Choice," Bishop Jenky succinctly observes that, "Today, more and more people simply assert that they have an absolute right to do whatever they want, any way they want, and in almost any circumstance." In this instance, I believe the wisdom of our Bishop's words plays out.

I ask for your prayers and for your continued support of Catholic education in the City of Galesburg and in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. Please know how very grateful I am of your choice to enroll your child(ren) in Costa Catholic Academy. My hope is that, as a community of faith, you can recommit to the Church's mission in her schools and assist in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to His children via Catholic education. Those among our school community who wish to pursue division and anger are not advancing this mission in any way. Won't you please join with me in coming together to ensure that Costa Catholic Academy, under the leadership of Principal Jackie Nieu Kirk and the guidance of Father Bill Miller, will continue to be a place of learning where our children can "grow in wisdom, age and grace." *Thank you.*