



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Bishop Blanchet Families:

As you may know, on December 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. Maureen O'Shaughnessy informed the faculty of her decision to step back from her role as principal of Bishop Blanchet High School. I know you will join me in praying for her and her family as well as wishing them the very best in their future endeavors.

Pending finalization of the terms of Dr. O'Shaughnessy's voluntary resignation, I would like to outline the initial transitional framework in serving our students and their parents in our shared mission of Catholic Education.

- **Mr. Tom Lord** has been named interim principal of Bishop Blanchet High School by Archbishop Brunett effective January 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 and will continue until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. His primary focus will be tending the immediate pastoral, spiritual and academic needs of the Bishop Blanchet school community. Mr. Lord is uniquely qualified having served as interim president of Archbishop Murphy High School following a challenging leadership transition at that high school two years ago. Additionally he brings over 40 years of educational experience including his service as principal of Nathan Hale, Meany Middle School and his ministry as Head Master at Villa Academy. Tom and his wife Mary Pat are active members of St. Mark parish in Shoreline where Tom has served on numerous commissions and youth activities. He has also been a consultant to the Archdiocese on a number of Catholic educational issues. His wife and two children are all graduates of Bishop Blanchet High School.
- **Dr. Kris Brynildsen-Smith** will be named interim-principal of Bishop Blanchet High School by Archbishop Brunett effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. Dr. Brynildsen-Smith will focus on establishing a consistent pattern of school management with the faith of the Church grounding the academic and social life of the school. Like Tom Lord, Dr. Brynildsen-Smith is very qualified to serve as interim leader in this capacity. She stabilized Holy Cross High School in Everett and then led the school as it became Archbishop Murphy High School through a number of transitions. As the Archbishop's Special Assistant for Catholic Schools she currently serves as interim-principal of St. Paul Catholic School in South Seattle. Given their shared history at Archbishop Murphy, I anticipate a seamless transition this spring when Dr. Brynildsen-Smith arrives.
- **During January**, Sandra Barton Smith and Kay Purcell from the Catholic Schools Department will be joining Tom Lord in a series of meetings with the various academic and administrative departments at Bishop Blanchet High School. These discussions will be pointed towards Blanchet's current academic plans around accreditation and block scheduling. Mr. Lord will be getting back to all of you later in January to share with you his sense of the next steps that will need to be taken.

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I would like to close this letter by addressing you, the families of Bishop Blanchet High School. Thank you for the confidence you place in Bishop Blanchet High School. Thank you for being such a significant partner in the support of Catholic education. I am confident that the recent leadership changes at Bishop Blanchet High School will build the foundation for an even greater future. Let us pray for each other in these remaining days before Christmas.

With every best wish and blessing I remain,  
Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Tyson".

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson  
Auxiliary Bishop, Superintendent