



The Diocese of Knoxville

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Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

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Dear Priests, Deacons, Men and Women Religious, Chancery Staff, School Leaders, and members of the Notre Dame High School Faculty and Family,

On behalf of Bishop Richard F. Stika, it is my pleasure to officially announce to you the hiring of Mr. Kyle Schmitt as the next president of Notre Dame High School.

This is an exciting time for our school community. After a lengthy and thorough search and evaluation process that included Bishop Stika, pastors, NDHS faculty and students, NDHS alumni, our diocesan leadership staff and me, it was determined that Kyle possesses the background and vision needed to lead our school into the future.

It is no secret that Catholic education has faced some serious challenges in recent years, and the Diocese of Knoxville has not been immune to them. Bishop Stika and I recognize the value of an education that includes Christian principles taught in a Catholic environment. Notre Dame remains a vital and trusted Catholic educational institution and a valuable part of the tradition and history of the Chattanooga area. We believe Kyle is the right choice to build on Notre Dame's success.

I want to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to Mr. George Valadie, who announced his retirement in January after eight years as president of Notre Dame. George arrived at NDHS at a very critical juncture for our school and Bishop Stika and I will always be grateful for the leadership that he has provided. George was instrumental in the search for his successor, and I cannot thank him enough. We wish him a long and fulfilling retirement.

The next few months will be a time of transition for NDHS. George will officially begin his retirement at the end of the academic year, and Kyle and his family will be moving to Chattanooga from Illinois, where he is currently the principal at St. Francis de Sales School in Lake Zurich, a suburb of Chicago.

Please join me in welcoming Kyle, his wife, Anelia, and their children, Holly, 9, Emma, 6, and newborn twins Meredith and Jack. We look forward to introducing them to you personally as they begin a new chapter in their lives as members of the Notre Dame High School family.

In Christ,

Dr. Sedonna Prater

Dr. Sedonna Prater
Superintendent of Schools