



March 26, 2018

Dear MSM Family:

It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that after 25 years of dedicated service to Mount St. Mary Academy, Principal Dawn Riggie plans to retire. While it is easy to understand Mrs. Riggie's desire to spend more time with her family, including her husband, children and grandchildren, it is hard to imagine MSM without her.

Our Board formed a search committee and is launching a national search for the next principal of MSM. We expect to have the new principal in place by the start of the 2018-19 academic year. Mrs. Riggie will remain with us until that time to ensure our new principal is prepared to take over.

Mrs. Riggie has spent nearly half of her life at MSM. She attended the former Mount St. Mary Academy Elementary School, graduating in 1967. She continued her education at the Mount as a member of the MSM Class of 1971. Just over 20 years later, with extensive experience working in religious education programs, Mrs. Riggie returned to MSM as the Dean of Students. She served in this role until 2001 when the Board of Trustees named her principal.

During her tenure as principal, Mrs. Riggie led the school in the tradition of our founders, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, who "in simplicity of heart offer all to God." She built a school environment that enriched all Mounties. She strengthened the school's academic program by introducing honors, advanced placement and dual enrollment courses; supported the development of a world-class and award-winning entrepreneurship program; and created a diverse learning environment that supports student needs.

Mrs. Riggie also led the school's efforts to increase offerings in the Fine Arts and Athletics, including creating a full instrumental music program, New York State's only all-girls marching band, golf and lacrosse teams, and, most recently, a varsity and novice crew program. Additionally, Mrs. Riggie, who has expertise and a strong interest in educational computing, was instrumental in expanding the school's technology offerings to include a fully networked campus, a one-to-one iPad program and a robust STEAM program.

Perhaps most importantly, while the school grew and changed under Mrs. Riggie's leadership, one thing remained the same – MSM is still a place where all young women are welcomed, nurtured and challenged to grow academically, emotionally and spiritually. Mrs. Riggie never lost sight of the school's mission and Catholic identity. She simply worked tirelessly to build around it and bolster it.

As a direct result of Mrs. Riggie's efforts, today MSM is strong and well-positioned to continue to thrive and grow. The Board of Trustees could not be more grateful to Mrs. Riggie for her dedication, loyalty, and leadership for 25 years, and we intend to build on her amazing legacy as we look to the future. We hope you will join us in congratulating Mrs. Riggie on her many successes and wishing her a happy retirement. Plans for celebrating Mrs. Riggie are underway; details will be communicated at a later date.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Hoelscher Glieco".

Kathy Hoelscher Glieco '81
President, Board of Trustees