



CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Diocese of Grand Rapids

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cynthia A. Kneibel appointed principal at West Catholic High School

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 20, 2011 -- Mrs. Cynthia A. Kneibel has been appointed principal of West Catholic High School. Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools President, Tom Maj, recommended Mrs. Kneibel to GRCSS Pastor, Rev. Msgr. R. Louis Stasker, and diocesan Superintendent of Schools, David Faber, who approved the appointment earlier this week.

Having served as interim principal since September 2011, Mrs. Kneibel was recommended for the position out of a field of four highly qualified candidates after a nationwide search. The search committee was comprised of GRCSS Board members, administrators and parents.

“I am extremely excited and thankful to have the opportunity to be on the forefront, working to advance what is already one of the academically finest high schools in the area,” said Mrs. Kneibel. “I look forward to advancing the work of the Church through the formation of West Catholic’s youth in a Christ centered institution known for its academic excellence.”

A teacher at West Catholic since 2003, Mrs. Kneibel most recently served as department head for the social studies department. She also has taught religion and social studies. As student activities director, she expanded extracurricular programming, procured grants, established student-business partnerships and helped run the annual All A’s campaign to raise funds for tuition assistance.

“Mrs. Kneibel brings broad experience to bear at West Catholic,” said GRCSS President Tom Maj. “She is grounded in Catholic teachings and in education. Msgr. Stasker and I are confident that she is the right choice to lead West Catholic into the future.”

Mrs. Kneibel earned a bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown University with majors in economics and government. She has a masters degree in education from Aquinas College. She works for College Board as an AP Economics test reader and is chair of the Heritage Committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution. A committee member for the Michigan Department of Education, Mrs. Kneibel also served for several years on the Board of Directors for various mental health organizations in West Michigan. She also is a longtime volunteer for St. Jude Parish, where she helped develop the school’s childcare center.

Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools is the administrative body of the Diocese of Grand Rapids that oversees operation of Catholic Central and West Catholic high schools. Catholic Central High School is the oldest diocesan co-educational high school in the nation. It was founded in 1906 and has a 2011-12 enrollment of 676 students. West Catholic High School opened in 1962 and is celebrating its fiftieth year. The school has a 2011-12 enrollment of 502 students. ###