I am delighted to announce that Mr. David Pritschet has accepted the position of Principal of Assumption Catholic School. In the interview, when we asked what motivates him, I remember the quote he shared that’s become a motto for him: “Wash the dish not because it is dirty nor because you are told to wash it, but wash it because you love the person who will use it next” (Mother Teresa).

Growing up in St. Paul, Mr. Pritschet went to school at Sacred Heart Elementary and Hill-Murray. He studied at the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State University. After teaching for a year in St. Louis Park, he accepted an offer to teach in Brainerd, MN in 1993 where he taught until 2021.  Mr. Pritschet taught German for 16 years, leading the World Languages department for a time, and he organized and led student trips to Germany for 11 years. Starting in 2009, he taught 8th grade social studies for 12 years.

Over the years, Mr. Pritschet earned a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Southwest State University. In 2016, he was recognized as MN Debate Coach of the Year. He was also recognized with the United States Distinguished Teacher Award (2006) and was Brainerd Teacher of the Year in 2012.

From 1993-2019 Mr. Pritschet was head Debate coach for Brainerd High School, organizing numerous national qualifying tournaments, and leading many students to nationals.  He also started a Speech team, and he coached Knowledge Bowl for Forestview Middle School from 2009-2021 as well.

For 10 years Mr. Pritschet has served on the Brainerd City Council, including a term as president and time as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. He also served as the Council COVID liaison.

About a year ago, Mr. Pritschet felt called to work more directly for the faith and started work with the Knights of Columbus, actually serving in Hibbing and the surrounding area.

Mr. Pritschet shared, “My wife, Anne, and I have been married for 32 years and have four children, Ciara, Miriam, Ronan, and Maeve. Maeve, the youngest, just finished her first year at University of Mary.  My wife has been the choir director at St. Andrew’s and St. Mathias churches pretty much since we moved to Brainerd.

I have several hobbies and interests that take up my spare time.  Deer hunting, archery, rifle and muzzleloader, and waterfowl hunting are things I truly enjoy.  Travel is another love of mine.  I lived in Germany for a year, where I met my wife, and then I lived in Ireland for a year (my wife is from Dublin).  I also enjoy reading, watching football and music.  I have sung in church all of my life.”

Mr. Pritschet has also taught Karate for more than 25 years, instructing students ranging in age from Kindergarten to adulthood.

Mr. Pritschet sought the position of principal here because it “offers the challenges of developing children and adults spiritually as well as intellectually, and at the same time, contributing to my own journey with Christ. All of this in a local area I have come to know and cherish.”

Our principal interview committee was comprised of Cynthia Zook, Director of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Duluth, Claudia Mescher and Nan Sartori, respectively a retired principal and retired teacher from Assumption Catholic School, Susie Marchetti our Business Manager, and me.  After our interview, I was urged by each member of the committee to quickly offer Mr. Pritschet the position of principal.  The interviewers were impressed with his experience, credentials, and answers to our questions.  Having known Dave during my last parish assignment, I gladly accepted the recommendation of our interview committee and am delighted he has accepted the position.

Mr. Pritschet will start his term as principal on July 1, 2022. However, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Pritschet will start working together to achieve a smooth transition starting at the end of May.  I believe Mr. Pritschet can help our school accomplish its stated mission: to provide faith and character formation, pursue academic excellence, and foster global solidarity, working as a Christ-centered partnership of students, parents, staff and the wider parish community.

Please help me to welcome Mr. Pritschet and his wife, Anne, to our community!

Sincerely,

Fr. Daniel Weiske

Pastor