

**For Immediate Release**

## **Hope for Tomorrow Foundation names Mark Schwerdt as Head of School for Saint Patrick Academy**

PORTSMOUTH – Saint Patrick Academy, a private Catholic school located in Portsmouth, has announced the appointment of Mr. Mark Schwerdt as its first Head of School. Under the direction of the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation, Saint Patrick Academy, known for the past 149 years as the diocesan Saint Patrick School, has been reinvented and reinvigorated for students in preschool through eighth grade from southern Maine and the New Hampshire Seacoast.

Drawing from a diversity of experiences, Mr. Schwerdt has taught, recruited, and fundraised for Catholic schools at the primary, secondary and undergraduate levels. He has served as a high school rhetoric teacher, the Director of Admissions at Thomas More College, and the Executive Director of the Southwest Indian Foundation in rural New Mexico.

Most recently, Mr. Schwerdt has been Principal of Saint Francis of Assisi School in Litchfield, New Hampshire. Under his administration, St. Francis School developed a joyful school culture which in turn doubled the enrollment over a three-year period. Among other new initiatives, he introduced the study of Latin and Greek, an all-school Science Fair, and an integrated virtues program.

Jim Broom, Chairman of the Board for the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation, remarked, “I am delighted that we have attracted a leader of Mark’s caliber, collaborative abilities, and commitment to educating the whole person.”

Charlie McKinney, President of New Hampshire-based Sophia Institute Press, also serves on the board of the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation. The Catholic publisher said, “I have the utmost confidence in Mark and his effectiveness in leading what will be a superb elementary and middle school. I highly encourage families to consider this exciting opportunity to enroll at Saint Patrick Academy.”

When asked about his new position, Mr. Schwerdt commented, “The Hope for Tomorrow Foundation has put together a fantastic team! We are set to reinvent and reinvigorate Catholic education on the Seacoast. Our great mission is to partner with parents to bring about the very best in intellectual and spiritual formation at a cost that everyone can afford.”

On May 13, 2017, the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation broke ground on a state-of-the-art 24,000-square foot facility that will house Saint Patrick Academy. The campus, located on Banfield Road in Portsmouth, will be ready by the 2018-19 School Year.

Saint Patrick Academy is currently accepting students in preschool through eighth grade for the 2017-18 School Year. Financial Aid remains available as well as a Founder's Package Scholarship for new families. Email Jen Marin, Director of Admissions, for further details and to set up a tour: [admissions@saintpatrickacademy.org](mailto:admissions@saintpatrickacademy.org).

Saint Patrick Academy is a Catholic school that fosters a love for the good, the true, and the beautiful. By means of joyful academics, students in preschool through eighth grade receive a truly holistic education.