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Lowell private schools see new leadership

By Amelia Pak-Harvey

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New principal at the Saint Louis School, Vina Troianello, meets incoming pre-K student Nora Woods, 4, and her sister, third-grader Avery Woods, 8, of Lowell, on Tuesday. SUN/JULIA MALAKIE

LOWELL -- At Lowell Catholic High School just before the start of school, fences are coming down.

The renovations continue at the old St. Margaret School next door, as the school integrates into one PreK-12 school known simply as Lowell Catholic.

Dan Price, who previously held an aspiring principal fellowship at Malden Catholic High, will lead the new elementary division that's run out of the old St. Margaret building.

The new leadership change is one of four taking place at private and parochial schools in Lowell this year.

Vina Troianello, the former Hellenic American Academy principal, will now lead the Catholic St. Louis School. Former School Committee member Dave Conway will take her place.

Meanwhile, St.



**Scott
Bolton**



**David
Conway**



Dan Price

Michael School Principal Scott Bolton will replace retiring principal Mary Frances Chisholm.

Lowell Catholic's new PreK-8 elementary division exceeded its 240-student target for elementary enrollment, with roughly 90 percent of students from the old St. Margaret School and some students from the closed Franco American School, according to Principal Maryellen DeMarco.

From the school's perspective, DeMarco said, the future of Catholic education is bright.

"What we're just committed to doing is enhancing that Catholic education as best as possible, and revitalizing wherever we can," she said. "It's so important to the history of the city.

Officials anticipate a real transfusion of both the lower and high-school grades -- middle schoolers will be able to use the high school's gym, and middle-school teachers could use the high school's science labs for lessons.

"Coming into a situation like this is just so exciting in terms of what's happening here at Lowell Catholic," Price said. "Everybody I tell about it lights up."

At St. Louis School, Principal Troianello comes with a number of ideas from her four years at Hellenic American Academy.

They include an after-school STEM program run by Merrimack College students and potential textile history workshops.

Despite a nationwide decline in Catholic school enrollment, Troianello thinks there is a future for Catholic education.

"I think we have to meet the needs of our families today," she said. "We need to prepare our children for the world that they're going to be walking into."

Troianello said she left Hellenic for St. Louis to be back in Catholic education. She previously served as principal of St. Mary of the Assumption in Lawrence for 12 years.

"It's who I am," she said. "It's where my soul is."

Just minutes away at St. Michael School, new principal Scott Bolton returns to his native Lowell area after serving as assistant principal, director of student life and associate athletic director at the Catholic Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, Virginia.

"It's very important to go ahead and teach to the whole child," he said. "That includes both socially, academically, and most important -- spiritually."

At Hellenic American Academy, new principal Dave Conway plans to meet with teachers individually before the start of the school year.

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Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/news/ci_30237183/lowell-private-schools-see-new-leadership#ixzz4Hc30drlb