

August 2, 2022

Dear Members of the Waldron Mercy Community,

After much prayerful thought and consideration, Ann Marie Braca recently informed the Board of Trustees that the coming school year ending June 30, 2023, will be her sixth and last as principal of Waldron Mercy Academy.

The Board has established an ad hoc search committee with the goal of having a permanent principal in place by July 1, 2023. More information will be shared with you in the near future including how members of the community will be involved in this process to find the best person for the role of Waldron Mercy's next principal.

In advocating for the mission and vision of Waldron Mercy, Ann Marie has worked faithfully and diligently during her time as principal. The Board is greatly appreciative for her work in several significant areas including completing the new dining commons capital project; achieving the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School award; formulating a strategic plan around upholding our Mercy Core Values; expanding the scholarship program; and increasing focus on cultural competency and diversity, equity and inclusion within the community. She also effectively steered the school through the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the move to online learning and a safe return to in-person classes.

Ann Marie shared, "In Catherine McAuley's words, 'We can never say it is enough'. But as I reflect on all that we have jointly accomplished, as COVID-19 becomes endemic and as we approach Waldron Mercy's 100th anniversary, I believe now is a time for transition. I am extremely grateful for the privilege and rewards of leading this school steeped in the Mercy charism. I have been blessed to collaborate with many Trustees, Board Committee members, and parents who give their time and talent to make Waldron Mercy the special place it is. I continue to be awed by the dedication, work ethic, and strong faith of our faculty and staff, especially our leadership team who have been instrumental in all we have accomplished. I am very proud to be a part of Waldron Mercy's history and look forward to all we will continue to accomplish this year as the school searches for its next leader."

We are grateful for your support and prayers during this time of transition, and are confident that our devoted faculty and staff will continue to provide students with an exceptional learning experience as we get ready to celebrate 100 years of service. Together, we are Waldron Mercy Academy, and we look forward with hope and enthusiasm to the future.

With best regards,

Joan Barone
Chair, Waldron Mercy Academy Board of Trustees

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