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"Faith In The Future"
Mrs. Rosaria Mincher
Principal

July 2018

Dear Families,

After twelve years as the Fourth-Grade teacher, I am truly excited and honored to be the new principal of Our Lady Help of Christians School. I am looking forward to working with all of our wonderful families who have shown such strong support through the years for our school and Catholic education.

I am pleased to share some exciting changes as you return for the 2018-2019 school year. We are embarking on an exciting new venture as the first school on Staten Island to introduce a coding and computational thinking curriculum into grades 5-8. Using a well-known, research-based program developed at the University of Colorado Boulder, our students will learn to program games and math/science simulations designed to solve real world problems. This program, Scalable Game Design, is known for its ability to support and enhance the standards already being taught in the classroom. Students will regularly engage in computational thinking activities that prompt students to break down complex problems as a means of finding solutions. Students will be introduced to the program in early September and will have access to the online software at school and at home. We believe this opportunity will further our ability to support student readiness for the 21st century.

To accommodate this exciting endeavor, the seventh and eighth grade classes will form a cohort whereby most subjects will be taught in a collaborative manner such that teachers can focus on meeting the needs of individual students. This cohort will enable us to cover the standards of both grades and also provide significant opportunities for enrichment and academic support.

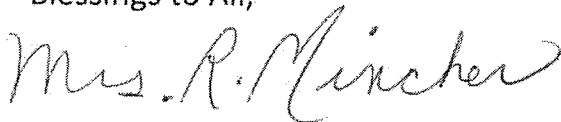
There is more exciting news! We are pleased to welcome a second class of PreK for All. Ms. Jennifer Emigholz, who has significant PreK experience, will be joining Mrs. April Minucci as a lead teacher in our PreK for All program. There are also several other staff movements this year. We are happy to announce that Mrs. Luisa Ceci will move up with her Kindergarten students to become their First-Grade teacher. She's thrilled to spend a second year with them. Mrs. Nicole Plaza,

who has extensive early childhood experience, will become the Kindergarten teacher.

With my transition to principal, Mrs. Jo Ann Maldarelli will move to the Fourth-Grade teaching position and Mrs. Paula Deverson will move to the Third-Grade teaching position. Both of these dedicated teachers will bring with them significant teaching experiences. Finally, we are pleased to welcome Ms. Siobhan O'Brien to our intermediate school team. With more than 20 years experience in Catholic education, she will work alongside Mr. Joseph Timmons and Mrs. Nancy Bannon to ensure that our students excel in all academic subjects. Musically speaking, we also welcome Mr. Robert Butler as our new music teacher! Mr. Butler's musical and performance talents are well known across Staten Island.

This is an exciting time for our school and these transitions will bring a whole new world of positive learning and social experiences for our students, faculty and families. We are truly **#blessedtobeOLHC!**

Blessings to All,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. R. Mincher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs. Rosaria Mincher

Incoming Principal