



11 November 2020

Dear Mercy Community,

When I was a senior in high school, amidst the crazy time referred to as Beatlemania, I resisted. I didn't love the Beatles; rather, I loved the Byrds. My favorite song *Turn! Turn! Turn!* was so insightful and philosophical! It was a revelation to me that there was a time for every purpose under heaven.

And now, my time has come. I will retire at the end of this school year. I look forward to spending time in my garden, reading the many books stacked in my study, volunteering at my parish, and spending more time with my family. I am especially excited to play more often with my wonderful grandchildren!

I am delighted that Mercy is in such a strong position. As an IB World School, we are able to provide an education that has a global perspective and a personal focus. Our student services are strong, with a unique adviser program, outstanding college counseling, and a strong focus in health and wellness. Our faculty is excellent, and our leadership team amazing. Our families are supportive and generous. Our Mercy Girls are proud of themselves, proud of their friends, and proud of their school. This is a good time for the school to look to a new academic leader, one who can bring a new perspective and ideas.

I came to Mercy High School the first time in the fall of 1976 and remained here for 22 years before moving to another faith-based girls' school. After forty-four years as a teacher and educator, I have learned many things; many of these are from the girls I have taught, the families with whom we have partnered, and the colleagues with whom I have worked. The most important thing that I have learned is how crucial a joyful community is to health and wellness and our ability to learn and grow. For this, I am grateful to Mercy in particular, because there is no stronger community than our TeamMagic.

The books of Wisdom are just that. Ecclesiastes is embedded in Wisdom literature and attributed to Solomon. As I have grown as a woman of faith, I have come to appreciate how central God must be in our lives, and that is one of the main messages of Ecclesiastes. But I must say, chapter 3 verses 1-8 still hold my heart.

Thank you, Mercy, for being such a central part of my life. I have loved being a part of such a generous and hospitable community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne A. Blakeslee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne A. Blakeslee  
Principal