



# Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese

*Board of Directors*

For Immediate Release

## Press Release

### **South Surrey welcomes much-needed new Private High School**

A new private Catholic high school will soon open its doors to serve families in the growing South Surrey area. The new school, St. John Paul II Academy, is set to open in September 2018 with the inaugural class of grade eight students.

The school will be located temporarily at 150<sup>th</sup> Street and 24th Avenue on the grounds of Good Shepherd church and Star of the Sea school while the new school and campus is being constructed. It is expected that the students will move to the permanent campus located at 184 Street near 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Surrey during the 2019-20 school year.

"This is a bold new initiative for the Archdiocese," says Archbishop J. Michael Miller, who heads the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver. "It has been spearheaded by a core group of professional and extremely dedicated parents, led by Troy Van Vliet. Their efforts, along with those from the Superintendent's Office, have created the momentum necessary to open the doors in September 2018."

"This school will help meet the growing demand for Catholic education in the very desirable and growing South Surrey area" adds the Archbishop.

Mr. Michel DesLauriers has been hired as Principal to lead the new school and began his duties as of September 1, a full year before the official opening.

"We're delighted to have Michel DesLauriers as principal of St. John Paul II Academy," says Mr. Dan Moric, Superintendent of Education of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). "Michel brings to this role extensive teaching and administrative experience having taught at Vancouver College and served in the administration, including as Principal, of St. Thomas More Collegiate, for the past 6 years."



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"I'm absolutely delighted to be leading this new initiative," says DesLauriers. "In addition to welcoming families from the local area, we expect a limited number of international students as well." "The St. John Paul II Academy's curriculum will be founded on a strong academic curriculum, high expectations and a quest for excellence in all that the school undertakes. We look to provide our students with great education in order to prepare them for the future."

"We're very excited to initiate a 'Head Start Leadership' program for the inaugural class of grade 8 students in July 2018, just prior to the new school year. It is a unique opportunity for the first class of students to demonstrate leadership and help set the tone for the new school," adds DesLauriers "and an opportunity for us to encourage these young people to help set the standard as students for the school."

## **Parent Information Sessions**

There is a series of parent information evenings for the new school scheduled for September. They include September 15 at Star of the Sea Elementary School; September 19 at Cloverdale Catholic Elementary School and September 20 at St. Bernadette's Elementary School. All sessions start at 7 pm.

## ***For more information***

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