

# Meet St. Philip School's New Principal

By Joe Siegel

Keith Kline is enjoying his role as Principal of St. Philip School in Greenville.

Kline, 44, attended Quinnipiac University, where he majored in Occupational Therapy. He was previously employed at the Coventry Public Schools in the Special Education department.

Kline has been a parishioner at St. Philip for the last 10 years. Kline and his wife Lisa served as Pastoral Ministers. "We did Children and Family ministry, helped out in the high school ministry and the middle school ministry as well," Kline explained.

In 2019, Kline became the Campus Minister and a religion teacher at St. Philips. He taught Grades 5 through 8. "I love children of all ages," Kline said. "I love to take something complex and make it simple and easy for them to understand. I especially love teaching the faith to children. Children of all ages and ranges and abilities have been able to come to me, whether they had special needs or whether they are typically developing are all able to come in and find love and comfort by meeting with me."

"Everything I do, I try to pray, ask God for his guidance, I lead with faith," Kline noted. "We already have a dynamic team at St. Philip so allowing them to do what they do best and just being here to support them, so it's collaborative, it's supportive."

St. Philip currently has 213 students enrolled, with several more waiting for admission in the next few weeks. Kline said the school welcomed 32 new families for the upcoming school year.



Keith Kline

"My first goal would be that everyone here in our school would worship and pray to God better," Kline said. "Going to mass, participating in the life of the church."

Kline also wants to grow enrollment to 250 students in the next three to five years. St. Philips provides education for Kindergarten through Grade 8. There is also a pre-Kindergarten program available.

Saint Philip School opened its doors in 1960 when Rev. Joseph P. McNamara, pastor of the parish, invited the Sisters of Mercy to staff his new school. Blessed and dedicated on January 15th of that year by the Most Rev. Thomas F. Maloney, Bishop of Providence, Saint Philip School initially served 189 students in grades 1-4. First staffed by four Sisters of Mercy, additional grades were added each year until all eight grades were filled.

Being at St. Philip has been rewarding for Kline, who appreciates the ability to be open about his religious feelings.

"With the cancel culture that's going on in the public schools and the different ideologies that people are putting forth, different curriculums, I knew I couldn't stay there any longer in public school," he added. "I wanted to teach the faith. Coming here, I absolutely love it. I get to teach the faith (to children), and help them to grow to love Jesus more, to know more about him and the church. I have the best job in the world."

For more information, visit St. Philip website at <https://stphilipschool.com/our-church>.

