

**February 25, 2019**

## **New high school names Principal**

*Mike Smalley brings years of professional administrative and education experience to Unity High School*

Unity High School is pleased to announce it has hired Mike Smalley to serve as principal, beginning immediately. Unity High School will open this Fall and be located in the same building as Mary, Mother of the Church, a Catholic parish in Burnsville, Minn. As principal, Mr. Smalley will be the leader of the school, responsible for its faculty, staff and day-to-day operations.

An experienced principal, Mr. Smalley has years of experience working in a Catholic school. He was principal of St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Savage, Minn., from 2011 to 2016. From 2007 to 2011, he was assistant principal. He also has served as a football coach for Burnsville High School and the Academy of the Holy Angels. In the 1990s, he was a middle school social studies teacher. Currently, he is a student teaching supervisor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.

“Mike is the right person to lead Unity High School as its inaugural principal,” said Tom Bengtson, chairman of the board, Unity High School. “As an experienced principal, teacher, coach, entrepreneur and father, he brings the right combination of skills to the very unique challenge of launching a new high school.”

“Unity High School will offer an innovative combination of education in the liberal arts, math and science, as well as leadership, virtue and service. Mike has the head and the heart to animate the Unity High School curriculum for the students,” said Matt Birk, vice chairman of the board at Unity High School.

Mr. Smalley earned an undergraduate degree from the University of St. Thomas’ College of Education. He has a Master’s Degree in Counseling & Student Personnel from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He also has a specialist degree in Education Leadership from Minnesota State University, with licensure as a K-12 principal.

“I am so excited to be a part of this effort to deliver faith-filled high school education to families in the south metro,” Mr. Smalley said. “This is a unique venture and I look forward to working collaboratively with the families, volunteers and staff who are coming together to launch Unity High School.”

Mike and his wife, Amy, have three daughters and a son, live in Savage, and are members of St. John the Baptist-Savage parish.

Unity High School will open this Fall with ninth grade. Tenth grade will be added in 2020, with grades added each year thereafter until the school fills out its 9th-12th grade educational format. Registrations are being accepted now. Please visit [www.UnityHighSchoolMN.com](http://www.UnityHighSchoolMN.com) for more information.