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New Catholic co-ed high school in Brighton names first leader

Posted by Matt Rocheleau May 15, 2012 07:36 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Thomas E. Nunan Jr. will head Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, a Catholic co-ed school scheduled to open in September.

The school will be housed on a Brighton campus currently home to the all-girls' Mount Saint Joseph Academy that will merge with the co-ed Trinity Catholic High School, which will shutter its Newton campus.

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Nunan has 27 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, mentor and coach, the high school said in a press release. He currently chairs the theology department and co-leads the campus ministry program at St. Sebastian's School, a Catholic school in Needham.

Last month, he was named the first Head of School at [Saint Joseph Preparatory High School](#), which will enroll about 200 students from each of the [two merging high schools](#).

"Saint Joseph Preparatory will combine the rich traditions of Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Trinity Catholic, creating a uniquely student-centered and faith-based educational community that strives for academic excellence in order to prepare our students for the future," Nunan said in a statement.

He has held several positions at the Needham school since 1985, officials said. During his tenure, Nunan has directed and evaluated teachers, implemented professional development and assessment practices, overseen curriculum changes and led two successful accreditation studies for St. Sebastian's

Nunan holds a master's degree in education from Boston College's Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, officials said. He also earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from BC.

In addition to his work at St. Sebastian's, during 2008 and 2009, he was a member of a religious education task force established by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, according to the high school's announcement. And, from 2007 to 2011, he served on the trustee board of Trinity Catholic Academy in Brockton during that school's creation and first four years in operation.

He also is a member of the Bishop Feehan High School "improvement team," and, for the past four years, has chaired the board of the Triboro Youth Theatre



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in Attleboro.

“Tom Nunan’s passion is the pursuit of excellence in Catholic education,” said a statement from Sister Mary L. Murphy, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, which sponsors the high school.

“His vision gives life to the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which seeks excellence tempered by gentleness,” she added. “I am confident Saint Joseph Preparatory High School is the right place for Mr. Nunan and he is the right leader for this new school.”

For more information about the new high school, visit www.saintjosephprep.org.

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