



Saint Denis

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

August 27, 2025

Dear St. Denis School Community

Our hearts and minds are united to the communities at Annunciation Parish and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a senseless act of violence unfolded today and cost lives and caused heartbreak in a community of faith. It is devastating to hear such horrific things happening in our communities, and in our time, especially amongst the most innocent members of our world. We pray fervently for such acts to end, and for peace that comes from the Prince of Peace to not only reign in our hearts, but also in our communities and our world as well.

We want to take a moment to also reassure you that we take seriously the safety and care of each child that you entrust to our care as a school. It is not lost on us that this is a very serious charge, and as such each and every day we work diligently to ensure that our facilities are not only safe but also secure for each of our students. Our doors on our facilities are always secured and checked throughout the day, and we have cameras and surveillance on entrances and exits, and only those who are authorized and have proper clearance are allowed in our building during school hours. We also have a very close relationship with our local law enforcement personnel in Benton and Scott County.

Further, we are adding to and enhancing the security of our building in the coming days and months. As a part of the security grant we have received, we have already contracted with several companies to replace many of our facility entry doors and access controls, as well as adding security film to our windows, and enhancing our fencing on our campus as well. You should see all of these changes over the coming months, as all of the parts on order come in. As an additional layer of security, since the tragedy today unfolded during Mass, the locks in the parish church are being changed as of this letter being sent, to allow for the doors to be safely locked while our students are present in the church building. We do all of these things because our most important asset as a school community is our students— and each and every one of you.

Please know of our constant vigilance for the safety and well-being of each of the children entrusted to us, and if there are ever any concerns, please reach out to us. Today, may we continue to pray for peace in our world and in our culture, that acts of tragedy and senseless violence may end, and that all may find safe refuge and reassurance in the intercession of Saint Joseph, Protector of the Church.

God Bless!

Mrs. Lindsay Wikle

Principal

Rev. Daniel Belken

Pastor