



# St. Augustine's School

525 Fourth Ave. Troy, NY 12182 518-235-7287

**Mr. Joe Slichko**

Principal

email: [staug@nycap.rr.com](mailto:staug@nycap.rr.com)  
518-235-7287

**James Spenard O.S.A.**

Pastor

email: [jass@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jass@nycap.rr.com)  
518-235-3861

**Mrs. Karen Burak**

Director of Early Childhood Program

email: [staug-ec@nycap.rr.com](mailto:staug-ec@nycap.rr.com)  
518-237-6973

**Mrs. Laurie Dahl**

Administrative Assistant

email: [staug-of@nycap.rr.com](mailto:staug-of@nycap.rr.com)  
518-235-7287

Let me begin by thanking everyone - students, faculty, parents, staff members and parishioners - for their warm welcome to me and my family. I also thank Mr. Clement for his outstanding vision and leadership over the last decade. He is leaving your school in great shape and I appreciate the time and effort he sacrificed to get us to this point. I also thank Mrs. Mary Kay Brown for creating this new letterhead. Mrs. Brown came up with several versions for us to choose from and this one was the unanimous winner. Thank you, Mary Kay, for your efforts!

I write to you all now to give an update on where I see St. Augustine's school presently and where I envision us moving in the coming years.

One thing that drew me to St. Augustine's was the high level of faith formation of the students. This is a testament to the dedication of Fr. Spenard and the faculty to not only education, but Catholic education. I plan to continue to encourage this level of faith development through maintaining a close connection with our parish as well as infusing the Catholic Tradition throughout our school day. We are in the process of developing a Catholic-based theme for next school year, which will include a monthly component. Details on this will be ironed out during the summer months.

In order for St. Augustine's to be the premiere Catholic School in the Capital District, we must have the most comprehensive and cutting edge curriculum. Therefore, in coordination with the Albany Diocese's *Covenant to Educate* and the new NYS Common Core Standards, our faculty will be working diligently over the next two years to roll out a new curriculum that is aligned, Pre K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We will be building on the solid foundations already in place here at St. Augustine's. I also will be looking into our classroom technology and working on funding to provide the most state-of-the-art, computer-based education for your children. These efforts will take a lot of time and energy, but I believe that our dedicated faculty is up for the challenge and motivated to *continue* to give your children the best possible education.

Although change is never easy, I believe that with support from our faculty, parents and parish community, St. Augustine's School will reach new heights. Therefore, I am asking for your help. Each of you has your own talents that could help our school grow. Those talents may help with our physical building and maintenance issues, providing new programs for our students, assisting with technology or perhaps new fundraising initiatives. Whatever you are able to do and however much you are able to commit is

welcomed... and so appreciated. Time is precious and I promise that the time you spend at St. Augustine's will be worthwhile. This will be evident by the smiles on the students' faces as they benefit from your hard-work.

Please do not hesitate to stop by and say hello. Stop in for a tour or to have a cup of coffee. This is our school and we all need to be as proud of it as those who work here on a daily basis. My door is always open and I am eager to hear from and meet you. I am sure that in the coming months and years you will be hearing from me.

In closing, I thank you for welcoming me into your family and promise to continue the tradition of excellence in faith, service and education that St. Augustine's School is known for. I thank you in advance for your support, time and work within the school.

I end now with a quote from Dr. Christopher Hopey, President of Merrimack College, that I think summarizes our mission at St. Augustine's School: *"I have a service job. I am in service to the organization. And as I do that, I think I'm teaching others how to be the same way. And that in itself is very Augustinian and very Catholic."*

God Bless,

Joe Slichko  
Principal