

Dear Members of the Cheverus Community,

Serving as President of Cheverus High School for the past eighteen months has been a singular honor for me and I want to thank each of you for your support during this time, but today, I write to inform you that I will be stepping down as President on June 30, 2017.

Given my background, I am aware that I have a number of competencies that would allow me to take on many positions. But my deepest passion, call, or “vocation” has always been for what Jesuits refer to as “ministries of the word.” I have a passion for doing retreat work, spiritual direction, sacramental ministry, preaching, and the giving of the Spiritual Exercises. The life-giving consolation that I have received from being involved in these ministries over the years is simply not available to me in a predominantly administrative position. Simply put, I long to do more explicitly priestly ministry.

Toward that end, I have sought and received the permission of my provincial superior, Fr. John Cecero, S.J., to follow my passion and return to work in one of our pastoral ministries or ministries of the word. I am deeply grateful to him and the Society of Jesus for this opportunity.

I am happy with the contributions I have made during my tenure at Cheverus, most especially the hiring of two incredible professionals in the Principal and Vice President of Advancement positions. With an excellent senior leadership team in place, I can now step aside with confidence that Cheverus is in a strong position -- and make way for a new leader to guide Cheverus into its second century of serving the Church and the people of Maine.

The Cheverus High School Board of Trustees, under the able leadership of Board Chair, Ed Haley, has been working diligently for some time to chart a path forward in selecting the next President of Cheverus High School. The board’s announcement regarding that process will be forthcoming later today.

I will remain fully attentive and available to what needs to be done throughout the remainder of this academic year so as to ensure a smooth transition for the next President of Cheverus High School. I could never do anything but that. Ten years ago, when I was a teacher here, this community won over my heart and I will always have deep affection and devotion for Cheverus. I will be sure to return often to check in on the many friends I have made, and the relationships that have nurtured me over these past two years.

Thank you to each of you for your support and encouragement. With a promise of prayers, and a wish for much peace for you and yours, I am, truly yours,



George E. Collins, S.J.
President