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Gerwe preparing for first year at St. Pius

BY JASON BRUBAKER • JBRUBAKER@NKY.COM • AUGUST 6, 2010

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Judy Gerwe's first day as principal of St. Pius X will require at least one "small" change from what she's been used to.

"I've gotten so used to working with the high school kids that I'm going to have to learn how to work with younger kids," said Gerwe, who spent the past six years as the assistant principal at Notre Dame Academy. "But that's also what I'm looking forward to the most. I can't wait."

Gerwe takes over for Betty Trenkamp, who



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Jason Brubaker/Staff Judy Gerwe takes over as principal St. Pius X this year after spending the previous seven years as the assistant principal at Notre Dame Academy.

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certification from Xavier University. She began teaching at Notre Dame in 1983, and took over as the assistant principal in 2004.

But now, as she is adjusting to working with the younger students at St. Pius, where the oldest kids are eighth-graders, she said she plans to spend as much time as possible in the classrooms. She said she has spent a good part of the summer meeting with the faculty, and has also managed to meet some of the students as well.

"I'm really excited to get to work with the kids, because that will be a different dynamic than I've been used to," she said. "It will take a different approach, but I love working with kids, and I think I'll really enjoy that aspect of this position."

She said the abundance of parental and community support were also big selling point for her as she took the job. She talked about one story she heard from a teacher this summer, who found herself in need of about 200 cupcakes on short notice for a school function last year.

A few frantic phone calls to parents later, she had close to 1,000 cupcakes on the way to the school.

"That right there just tells me the kind of support we have here, and that's one of the most important things you need to make a school successful," she said. "This is a tremendous school in a great community, and I'm blessed to have this opportunity."

was the principal at St. Pius for 12 years before retiring at the end of last year. Gerwe, who also taught at Notre Dame for 21 years, said her last official day at NDA was June 30, and her first official day at St. Pius was July 1.

"I went from one right into the other," she said. "It's been a lot of work, but it's also been fun to meet everyone and start learning my way around here."

Gerwe, an Independence resident, said she always figured she would have a career in administration, having earned a Master's degree in education and a principal's

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The first day of classes at St. Pius is scheduled for August 18, with an open house planned for August 15 after Mass. There is also a Parent Orientation Night on August 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about St. Pius, visit www.stpiusx.com or call 341-4900.

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