



VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1872

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Villa Maria Academy High School Launches New Governance with Sister Stephen Anne Rodriguez, IHM, Ed.D., President, and Jane C. Hannon, Ph.D., Principal

Malvern, PA - May 22, 2025 - Villa Maria Academy High School, an independent Catholic college preparatory school, sponsored by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) and committed to spiritual growth and academic excellence, is proud to announce the appointments of Sister Stephen Anne Roderiguez, IHM, Ed.D., as President and Dr. Jane C. Hannon as Principal, effective July 1, 2025.

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, Villa Maria Academy High School will adopt a new President/Principal model of governance in a strategic step that aligns with best practices in Catholic secondary education and positions the school for continued growth and mission-focused leadership on behalf of its students. This dual-leadership structure is designed to strengthen both the academic and the operational aspects of the school. By building a structure that supports long-term sustainability, fosters innovation, and deepens its commitment to providing a premier Catholic, college-preparatory education for young women, this governance model allows leaders to focus more intentionally on school improvement and growth while working collaboratively, guided by the IHM charism, to support Villa Maria's vision for the future.

Having spent the past two years as Associate Head of School at Villa Maria, Sister Stephen Anne Roderiguez, IHM, will move seamlessly into her role as President, with a focus on helping to strengthen the mission and identity of the school while providing a pathway to personal success for each girl to find what makes her extraordinary. Sister brings to her role over fifty years of dedicated service in Catholic education, grounded in a strong commitment to academic excellence, faith-filled formation, and lifelong learning.

Sister Stephen Anne's professional journey began in the classroom, where she taught grades five through eight for 18 years, across five dioceses. She transitioned into leadership roles, serving as principal at four Catholic elementary schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Notably, she led St. Aloysius Academy for Boys for nine years, overseeing a K-8 boys' program and a co-ed Montessori preschool. Her leadership continued at Villa

Maria Academy Lower School, where she served as assistant principal, and later as a member of the IHM Congregational Leadership Council.

Most recently, as Associate Head of School at Villa Maria, Sister Stephen Anne has already played an integral role in shaping the school's strategic direction. Her skillset reflects a profound expertise in school systems, instructional leadership, and organizational development. Sister holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Organization from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Immaculata University, and a Master's Degree in Education from West Chester University.

An experienced school leader and educator with a lifelong commitment to Catholic education, Dr. Jane C. Hannon brings a wealth of knowledge, dedication, and vision to the role. Dr. Hannon succeeds Sr. Regina Ryan, IHM, who has faithfully served the school community as Principal and Head of School since 2012 and will be moving on to another ministry at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Dr. Hannon holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Notre Dame, an M.S.E. in Educational Leadership from Fordham University, and a Principal Licensure Certificate. After a 13-year career at Georgetown Visitation, an all-girls secondary school in Washington, D.C., Dr. Hannon comes to Villa Maria from Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Virginia, where she most recently held the title of Assistant Principal/Dean of Academics. In her roles at Bishop Ireton, Dr. Hannon was instrumental in leading curriculum development, supporting teacher development, and contributing to the school's mission and initiatives as an ex officio member of the Board of Governors.

"I am confident that these two seasoned educational leaders will collaborate with the stakeholders of the Villa community to build on its accomplishments of the past and to lead Villa Maria into a vibrant future immersed in the IHM Charism," said Sister Mary Ellen Tennity, General Superior of the IHM Congregation. "Grounded in the long-standing traditions and legacy of Villa Maria Academy, this new model of governance promises to continue to foster the spiritual growth, intellectual curiosity, and the embodiment of Christian service in each of its students."

Villa Maria Academy High School is located on a 45-acre campus on Central Avenue in Malvern, PA, and has 429 students in grades 9 through 12. VMAHS provides a true independent Catholic school experience in which motivated young women grow through intellectual rigor, excellence in athletics and the arts, spiritual awareness, and a commitment to service.

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