



## ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

*Specializing in Success One Student at a Time*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### NEW PRINCIPAL FOR ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

BALTIMORE, MD, September 2, 2008 – On the opening day of school, Dr. Christine Manlove introduced Mr. Andrew Parsley to the students as the new Principal of St. Elizabeth School (SES). Dr. Manlove, who became Principal in 1988 and then became Executive Director/Principal in 1995, will continue to serve as Executive Director of St. Elizabeth School.

During staff orientation the week before the students arrived, Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, stopped by St. Elizabeth School to personally congratulate Mr. Parsley on his new position. Having known Dr. Manlove for many years, Dr. Grasmick thanked Dr. Manlove for all of her “double-duty” work and encouraged her to focus on her single role of Executive Director. Dr. Grasmick also spoke words of encouragement to new staff members who had gathered for orientation.

Mr. Parsley joined the St. Elizabeth School faculty in 1996 and served as the carpentry teacher for one and one-half years, then a high school science teacher for a year, and finally a high school social studies teacher for seven years. Along his teaching journey, Mr. Parsley also taught fitness, creative writing, and driver’s education. During several summers, he supervised SES student work crews at Habitat for Humanity, and in the winters coached skiing for Special Olympics. He became a high school coordinator in 2005, Assistant Principal in 2007, and Principal this fall.

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Mr. Parsley said, “The wonderful staff members at SES create a positive, nurturing environment where students get the education, training, and care they need to have a better life both now and in the future. I am privileged to work with these people and to be part of an organization that does such meaningful work. Many serious responsibilities come with this new position, but Dr. Manlove is a great mentor, and I am confident that the school will continue to improve its ability to meet the needs of our students and their families. I hope the students are looking forward to the 2008-2009 school year as much as I am!”

Mr. Parsley earned a BA degree from Johns Hopkins University in Political Science and an MA in Education from JHU, where he studied Special Education and Transition Services. He completed the JHU School Leadership program earning a Graduate Certificate in School Administration, and passed with flying colors the School Leaders Licensure Assessment. He holds an Advanced Professional Certificate to teach special education students of all ages, and a Maryland State Department of Education certification to serve as a school principal.

Before joining the St. Elizabeth School faculty, Mr. Parsley worked for both residential and supported employment agencies for adults with disabilities. Mr. Parsley is married to Luciene Parsley who is a staff attorney with the Maryland Disability Law Center. They live in Baltimore City with their two daughters, ages 9 and 7. In his spare time, Mr. Parsley keeps in shape by running, and is currently training for his second Baltimore Marathon.

Founded in 1961 by the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore, St. Elizabeth School is now a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. SES serves students with special needs, ages 11 to 21, from Central Maryland. SES graduates students who are successful at home, in the work force, and in the community. By maximizing each student’s unique abilities, SES enhances the quality of life for middle and high school students with cognitive and other disabilities. The program focuses on the realization of personal potential by integrating academic growth, social/emotional development, functional life skills, and vocational training.

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