Michelle Jones ready to lead Pasadena school

Calling St. Jane Frances de Chantal School in Pasadena a "vibrant learning community," Michelle Jones said she hopes to build on the programs that are already in place at the 580-student school.

"My area of focus is always about the children and providing a Catholic environment where they can learn and grow," said the new principal, a parishioner of the Shrine of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore.

Ms. Jones praised the focus on Catholic identity at St. Jane Frances, highlighting the school's daily prayer, weekly Masses, outreach and other efforts.

"It's what we're all about," she said. "It has to be throughout the curriculum."

Ms. Jones grew up in Lutherville, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Loyola College in Maryland, Baltimore, and a master's degree in administration and supervision, also from Loyola.

The new principal taught at Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore and was a child life specialist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C. She is a former teacher, assistant principal and principal of Holy Redeemer School in College Park. While in the Archdiocese of Washington, Ms. Jones served on the technology advisory board.