Shirley Wise impressed with Linthicum school

As the new principal of St. Philip Neri School in Linthicum, Shirley Wise said she is honored to inherit an educational institution that is in "very good running order."

"I've been very impressed with everything I've seen so far," said Ms. Wise, former principal of St. Mark School in Catonsville and St. Martin School in Gaithersburg. "Everyone is very friendly and welcoming."

St. Philip Neri is looking at the possibility of opening a pre-school in 2009, Ms. Wise said. The new principal also plans to study ways of strengthening writing across the curriculum and enhance professional development opportunities.

Ms. Wise said she plans to start off the year with a faculty retreat to get to know teachers and welcome newcomers to the school.

A parishioner of Our Lady of the Chesapeake in Lake Shore, Ms. Wise holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore and a master's degree in education management and supervision from Loyola College in Maryland, Baltimore.

The Baltimore native formerly taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Baynesville and St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick.