

# St. Joseph's Collegiate eliminates Regents curriculum

KENMORE — After thoughtful evaluation and analysis, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute announces the decision that it will no longer use the Regents curriculum as a foundation for the school's academic program. This move creates the opportunity for a more dynamic teaching and learning community for its students.

"St. Joe's has always delivered a high-quality, rigorous academic program to young men in Western New York," President Chris Fulco, Ed.D. said. "The decision to move away from the Regents curriculum provides even greater freedom to create a more robust academic vision and innovative curriculum for the school."

The decision to phase out the Regents curriculum has been under consideration for several years. A dedicated group of St. Joe's educators, board members, and local education leaders had been evaluating the current curriculum and course offerings, and analyzing the insights revealed during the strategic planning process in 2016. When Fulco and the new principal, James Spillman, assumed the top leadership roles this July, they joined the conversation and quickly realized that phasing out the Regents curriculum would produce incredible benefits for students.

"Our goal is to ensure our young men are fully equipped with the skills required for success beyond St. Joe's," Spillman said. "Students who are collaborative, creative, critical thinkers, and good communicators are simply better prepared for college. Our new curriculum will emphasize opportunities to promote these skills in the classroom each day."

The two leaders envision new courses of study, more cross-curricular learning opportunities, and a wider variety of assessment tools to measure student performance. The school currently offers 18 Advanced Placement courses and believes this change could allow for even more, giving high-performing learners the



opportunity to earn additional college credit during high school.

"Today's students are extremely curious and expect to be challenged," said Fulco. "The freedom to create more innovative learning experiences allows us to better meet the changing needs and interests of our young men."

A new Teaching and Learning Committee composed of administrators and teacher-leaders has been formed to lead the transition planning efforts, and more professional development opportunities have been identified. Members of each academic department have also begun evaluating course content to target areas to explore and revise.

The first phase of the transformation will begin in the 2019-20 school year as incoming freshmen and sophomores will not take Regents exams. Next year's juniors will be offered the opportunity to take Regents exams to earn the Regents or Advanced Regents diploma. During the 2020-21 school year, Regents exams will no longer be offered.

"We remain committed to our mission of caring for the whole person in our respectful, Lasallian Catholic community," Spillman said. "We believe this significant academic shift will allow St. Joe's to continue to distinguish itself as the educational leader for young men in Western New York."