



Bishop Carroll Catholic High School

Spirit, Heart, Mind, Body



Lorie Ratchford, Bishop Carroll Principal with Jerry Stephens, Bishop Carroll's CEO.

Ratchford to serve as Principal at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School

Lorie Ratchford will serve as Bishop Carroll Catholic High School's newest principal, effective immediately.

Ratchford has served at the Catholic High School in Ebensburg for 20 years in several capacities, as an English teacher, prom committee advisor, yearbook advisor, ski club advisor, and an active member of the school community. She was offered a one-year contract by the school's board of trustees on January 17, after serving as the school's interim principal since August.

A 1986 graduate of Bishop Carroll, Ratchford has a master's degree in education from Saint Francis University as well as a bachelor's degree in English. She had agreed to serve as assistant principal for the 2011-2012 school year before taking the helm. Her service to the school has included strong support of the school's accelerated reader program, school dress code, discipline policy, and ensuring the Catholicity of the school is maintained.

BC Board of Trustees Chairman Roy Holtz said Ratchford is greatly respected by the board, students, staff, and community, and her strong moral character is without question.

"Mrs. Ratchford has a very strong faith that is now evident in the halls of Bishop Carroll," said Holtz. "She is a definite leader, guided by her faith, who has improved the discipline, academic structure, and teamwork within Bishop Carroll Catholic High School."

Holtz said Ratchford is concerned with every single student on Huskie Hill, and is fair in her approach. “Her direction for our school is faith, academics, and teamwork,” he said. “She is working constantly to make Bishop Carroll Catholic High School a better place.”

“I am proud to continue to serve the students, faculty, staff, and students of Bishop Carroll,” said Ratchford. “To be in an environment that allows students to freely express themselves and celebrate their faith on a daily basis is a reminder to all of us as to why we exist. The ability to share in our faith while striving for academic excellence is important to all of us.”

Ratchford said she is eager to continue. “We are continuing to reflect on all areas of our curriculum and requirements to ensure we are offering the best possible faith-based education,” she said. “A consistent plan is in place to continue to offer strong academic, spiritual, athletic, and extra-curricular programs at Bishop Carroll that will continue into the future.”

Realizing the importance of faith to the students of Bishop Carroll, Ratchford is proud of the school’s newest student group, ‘Works in Progress.’ Through this student-centered, school-based ministry youth group led by religion teacher Br. Michael Tinker and Fr. Matt Russick, students have grown deeper in their faith development.

“As a graduate of Northern Cambria Catholic and Bishop Carroll High School, I value the education I received in these institutions and am committed to affording the same opportunities to current and future students.”

Ratchford and Bishop Carroll’s CEO Jerry Stephens make up the administrative team. Stephens is glad to have her as the official principal and out of the ‘interim’ status.

“Lorie lives the mission statement of our school each and every day....educating the spirit, heart, mind and body of our students,” said Stephens. “Lorie's priorities are faith, academics and then everything else. Knowing that Lorie has the academic side of our school well under control allows me to focus on the business and human resource issues in operating our school.”

Ratchford is the wife of Dr. Donald Ratchford. The two reside in Ebensburg with their son A.J., and daughter Caroline. The family attends Holy Name parish in Ebensburg.