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Pope John Paul II Catholic School hires principal

SOUTHERN PINES — A California superintendent has been named the new principal of Pope John Paul II Catholic School in Southern Pines.

Rick Kruska, the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Oakland, will start in July.

Since starting his education career in 1973, he has taught in both public and Catholic schools, coached football for 15 years, and was a principal in both Catholic elementary and high schools.

Kruska also worked as president of X-Cel and as a senior executive with Nokia, where he managed an international staff of 40.

Kruska has a doctoral degree in education from Loyola Marymount University, a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University Northridge and an executive MBA from Southern Methodist University.

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