

News Release

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Messmer High School Names Dr. Richard Mannisto as New President

Milwaukee – Messmer High School today announced the appointment of Dr. Richard Mannisto as its next president, effective April 1, 2025. This significant announcement comes at a pivotal moment for the school as it prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary, marking a century of academic excellence, spiritual growth and community impact.

Mannisto brings extensive leadership experience to the position. He currently serves as vice president of advancement at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Wauwatosa, where he has raised \$10 million annually and played a key role in fostering program expansion and financial sustainability. His broad expertise spans from classroom instruction to administrative leadership, which will empower him to build upon Messmer's strong foundation.

"We are thrilled to have an educator and leader of Dr. Mannisto's caliber as our next president," said Jim Schubilske, Messmer Board Chair. "With Dr. Mannisto's wealth of experience, leadership and commitment to educational advancement, we are confident that Messmer will continue to thrive and evolve as a pillar of the Milwaukee community.

"Dr. Mannisto's leadership, combined with Messmer's dedicated faculty, staff and community, will ensure that the school remains a beacon of excellence in Catholic education for years to come," he added.

Dr. Mannisto's professional background includes leadership roles at multiple educational institutions, with a focus on advancement, program growth and long-term planning. In addition to his work at Wisconsin Lutheran College, he has served on various boards, including his tenure as Board Chair of Pius XI Catholic High School, where he played a key role in the successful transition of the school's leadership.

“This is a tremendous honor and I am humbled to join the Messmer community,” said Mannisto. “I look forward to continuing the rich traditions of Catholic education at Messmer High School while also embracing the possibilities that lie ahead. Along with the students, faculty, staff and community, I’m confident we’ll ensure Messmer’s continued success and growth for generations to come.”

Mannisto will partner with current President Dr. Jim Piatt, retiring in June after 12 years as Messmer president, to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

About Messmer High School

Since its founding in 1926, Messmer High School has been committed to providing a high-quality education rooted in Catholic tradition. The school emphasizes academic excellence, personal accountability and community involvement, offering innovative programs like STEM classes and the PathWAYS initiative, which integrates real-world job experiences with academic learning. Messmer remains dedicated to its mission of fostering the character and potential of its diverse student body, preparing them to succeed and contribute positively to their communities.

For more information about Messmer High School, its programs or partnership opportunities, visit messmerschools.org.