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## Assumption School principal to retire

### The Rockford Independent

Sister Rosemary Smith, RSM, principal of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Belmont, has announced her retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2007-08 school year. Sister Rosemary Smith is a Sister of Mercy from the Regional Community of Detroit and has been Assumption's school principal for the past 20 years. She has ministered in Catholic school education for 47 years.



Sister Rosemary spends some time with fourth graders, Hayden Max (L) and Sophia Paganelli.

Originally from Oak Park, Ill. and then the Northwest Detroit area, Sister Rosemary attended St. Scholastica School and Our Lady of Mercy High School. Following high school, Sister Rosemary attended Mercy College and then received her masters from the University of Detroit in education/mathematics. Her post-graduate studies were in school administration at Marquette University, St. Mary's College in Fond du Lac, St. Louis University, Michigan State University and the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Rosemary became principal of the Assumption School in 1988. It was an exciting time for her to begin her career because the new church was being dedicated, as well as the addition of three new classrooms to the school.

"It has been a joy and a blessing to serve on the educational team here at Assumption," said Sister Rosemary. "The teachers, parish and support staff, students and parents have made it possible for us to accomplish much in spiritual and academic formation in the name of our master educator," said Sister Rosemary.

Although Sister Rosemary will be sure to find time in retirement for some of her favorite pastimes, including fishing, her love of the Catholic school education will always remain.

She maintains that faith formation and character development are a sacred and awesome responsibility and a blessing that was entrusted to her for more than 47 years.

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