Meet Daniel Thole, administrator at Christ the King Catholic School. This is Thole's first year at Christ the King, but he brings more than seven years of experience in education, having served as a classroom teacher, administrator and director of secondary programs.

Thole earned his Master of Educational Leadership degree from Creighton University in Omaha where he was inducted into the Jesuit Honor Society. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education with a minor in Catholic Studies from Loras College in Dubuque. As a leader in Catholic education, Thole has written and published mathematics curricula and specializes in research-based learning through technology. He was awarded the Outstanding Educator of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year, and the Iowa Governor's Scholar Favorite Teacher Award for both the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years.

"God placed me on this earth to focus my energies on making schools a place where students feel empowered and are given the optimal environment to learn deeply," said Thole. "In my role as an educational leader, I have the ability to make real changes that need to occur if we are going to be serious about truly facilitating learning in a way that is most effective, engaging, and enjoyable for today's students."

Thole and his wife met on the track team at Loras College eight years ago. Today, they are the proud parents of a nearly two-year-old daughter named Lucy. When he's not at school, he enjoys audiobooks, podcasts, sports news, continuous learning, walking his dogs, and doting on his daughter.