



Looking Ahead to the New School Year

August 13, 2017

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Welcome to Our New Faculty

Kathryn Hano

Our third grade teacher, Ms. Hano, is a graduate of St. Joseph's University, where she made the Dean's List and earned certifications in Elementary Education and Middle School Math. She has four years teaching experience at the elementary level in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in public schools. Ms. Hano regularly utilizes technology in the classroom and has participated in Professional Learning Communities, Instructional Support Teams, and Middle States committees.

Jason Lewandowski

Mr. Lewandowski will be taking on the Honors Math Program. He holds a Masters degree in Education from Cabrini College. He comes to StJP with 10 years of teaching experience in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, most recently at St. John Neumann / Maria Goretti High School as an Algebra I and Geometry teacher. He is experienced as a Science and Math curriculum coordinator and has facilitated professional development opportunities for staff members. Mr. Lewandowski often integrates technology in his classroom.

Tyler Meil

Our Strings program will continue under the direction of Mr. Meil. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Chestnut Hill College. Mr. Meil has taught for the Meridee Winters School of Music using various teaching methods like Orff, Kodaly, and Suzuki to instruct students in both violin and piano. He is also a talented performer as first violin in the Philadelphia Doctors Chamber Orchestra, the Old York Road Symphony, and the Roxborough Community Orchestra.

Matthew Mullen

You will find Mr. Mullen in the Middle School. He holds a Masters degree in Education from Chestnut Hill College. He comes to StJP with 15 years teaching experience, including Devon Prep and Archbishop Ryan. He has developed a public speaking course, was instrumental in updating curriculum for 6th/7th grade English, and has been active in a creative writing camp, film, camera, and video editing. Mr. Mullen has focused on test prep, grammar and writing skills in his previous English Language Arts classrooms.

Andreas Sawicky

We welcome Mr Sawicky to the fifth grade homeroom. Mr. Sawicky is a graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He has taught 5th and 8th grade, with an innovative approach to integrating technology into the curriculum. He has created a curriculum unit on United States government and has developed a unit on Diversity. Mr. Sawicky utilized a hybrid method of teaching which incorporates small group instruction. He uses student information and assessment data to develop lessons for his students, which complements his focus on daily behavior management.

Melia Schmauk

Mrs. Schmauk earned her Masters of Music degree in Harp Performance from New England Conservatory and her Bachelors of Music degree from Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. She has been a Music Teacher and Choral Director in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for eight years and also gives private instruction on both the piano and harp. As a harpist, she has performed as a soloist as well as a member of many orchestras throughout the United States, including the Pennsylvania Ballet, Delaware, Lancaster, and Montana Symphony Orchestras. Mrs. Schmauk has also had the opportunity to perform with Josh Groban, Martina McBride, Randy Newman, and Ann Murray.

Ann Marie Tome

Here comes Mrs. Tome to our first grade. Mrs. Tome holds a Masters degree in Elementary Education from Arcadia University. In her 12+ years of teaching, she has worked with students in grades K-6, with a focus on reading instruction. Specifically, she has implemented literacy and enrichment programs. Recently, Ms. Tome earned the Hatboro-Horsham School District Champion of Learning Award. She uses small group learning centers to differentiate instruction. Ms. Tome uses her own unique evaluation system to help monitor individual student progress.

Upcoming Dates

- August 14
Uniform Swap
Chapel House,
5:00 - 6:30PM
- August 20
Kindergarten Play
Date, Playground,
10:30 AM
- August 29
School Supply
Drop-Off
Lower Building
Parent Meeting, 7PM
- September 6
First Day of School,
K- 8
Boo Hoo Brunch,
Kindergarten Parents
Open House, Early
Childhood Center
- September 7
First Day of School,
Early Childhood
Center
- September 8
Opening Mass
Back to School Bash

Our K-8 Faculty

- Kindergarten Mrs. Lori Dolan and Mrs. Marie Ireland
- Grade 1 Mrs. Kathy Pritz and Mrs. Ann Marie Tome
- Grade 2 Mrs. Heidi Hector and Ms. Maureen McLaughlin
- Grade 3 Ms. Kathryn Hano; Educational Assistant: Mrs. Maureen Phillips
- Grade 4 Mrs. Kaitlin Koch and TBA
- Grades 5-6 Mr. Andreas Sawicky and Ms. Samantha McGinley
- Grades 7-8 Ms. Elva FitzGerald, Mr. Matthew Mullen and Mrs. Devin Sweeney
- Music Mrs. Melia Schmauk and Ms. Kristin Rice
- Honors Math Mr. Jason Lewandowski
- Technology Mrs. Lisa Ortolani
- Physical Education Mrs. Mary Santarelli
- Art Ms. Terry Heinz
- Library Mrs. Erin Burkholder and Sister Sandra Kessler, SSJ
- Band Mr. Alex Schmauk
- Strings Mr. Tyler Meil

We offer our gratitude and wish success to Mr. Dave Cipolla and Mrs. Kathy Finke who will assume positions in other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

Technology Update

Makerspaces

Makerspaces are places where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. Our Makerspaces will be set-up primarily in the library and technology lab during special periods. Some of these projects may be finished or started in music, art, science and other classrooms to incorporate STREAM learning. Students will have different stations to explore, including animation, green screen recording, stop motion animation, coding, "ozobots", use of "makey makey", building with "little bits" electronic pieces, making "cubelets" performing tasks, building and programming robots, creating with 3D pens and the 3D printer, and more!

We can use your help! Throughout the school year, we will be requesting recycled items that can be found around your home to make these projects even more creative. The items that are needed now include socks (the fuzzier the better), scraps of tissue paper and felt (small pieces are fine).

Google Expeditions Kit

Using special viewers, teachers will be able to guide students to places without leaving their classroom. Students will be able to explore coral reefs, the surface of Mars, Antarctica, Rainforests, historical buildings, National Parks, Wonders of the World, and other immersive virtual journeys right in the classroom.

Touch Chromebooks

Adding an additional 40 touch chromebooks means more students will have access to chromebooks throughout the school day. This will allow teachers and students to use the GSuite drive, docs, sheets, slides, drawing and classroom apps both at school and on any device at home.

Discovery Streaming

This subscription allows teachers and students the use of the discovery streaming educational video library for student projects and teaching resources.

WeeVideo Subscription

Yet another new subscription will allow students to create movies and green screen effects on chromebooks as well as in the Technology Lab.

Osmo Kits

Additional Osmo kits will be available for the students in the lower grades for use with iPads. These kits help students practice skills including spelling, counting, story creation, money, and fractions.

Contact Us

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Facilities Improvements

Painting of Classrooms

We are currently receiving bids to scrape, sand, and paint several classrooms in the lower building. We expect to have these rooms completed by the end of August.

Water Filtration Systems

We are researching the possibility of updating some of our water fountains. If our current plumbing accepts the systems that we have found, we will replace our current water fountains with updated water fountains/bottle filling stations.

Villanova Day of Service

On Saturday, September 23, 2017, students from Villanova University will participate in a day of service at St. Joseph the Protector School. Ten to fifteen volunteers will work to "freshen up" our buildings. Volunteers will paint the Kindergarten hallway and landscape in front of our Lower Building. Other volunteers will move through both school buildings cleaning woodwork and radiators. Please mark this date on your calendars. We will also need you, our parents and community members, to assist in this day of service to benefit our school campus.

Our Lunch Program

In your communications with us, many of you have expressed a number of concerns related to our lunch program. Some of these concerns include the length and location of lunch. Be on the lookout for a brief survey that we will send in the next few days. We are anxious for your input that will assist the principal and faculty in finalizing decisions that pertain to the lunch program for the 2017-2018 school year.

A Final Note...

Dear Parents and Community of Saint Joseph the Protector School,

I hope that this communication builds the same excitement for the upcoming school year that we are feeling as we plan. From our qualified and enthusiastic faculty, to new and exciting technology, and facilities improvements, we have much for which to be grateful. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our Parent Meeting on August 29, 2017 at 7PM in St. Luke Church.

Thank you for your continued support and positive feedback. It has been a wonderful experience working with you, our faculty, Sister William, and Father Brandt this summer preparing our school to welcome our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alicia Farren, Interim Principal