



Meet Our St. Patrick Faculty:

At St. Patrick School, we are blessed with an incredible faculty and support staff. Many of our faculty were raised in the area and attended local Catholic schools themselves. Several have received Masters Degrees. Without their enthusiasm and dedication, we could not provide the excellent quality education for which we are known.

Mrs. Mary Vitulli: Principal

Mrs. Mary Vitulli was raised in New York, but has made Illinois her home for over 30 years. Mrs. Vitulli is a graduate of Colgate University where she received her B.A. in History and Secondary Education. She went on to take graduate courses at SUNY of Cortland as an elementary education major and more recently she received her Masters Degree in Leadership and Administration from the American School of Education. Mrs. Vitulli has had a diverse career in education, coming to St. Patrick School most recently from St. James School in Highwood where she was a teacher, assistant principal and principal for over 20 years. Mrs. Vitulli is married with three grown children and the proud grandmother of two beautiful grandchildren.



Mary Richter: Reading Specialist

Mrs. Richter graduated from Sacred Heart of Mary in Rolling Meadows, IL. She received her A.S. degree from Harper College, then continued on to receive her B.S.ed degree from Eastern Illinois University. Mrs. Richter studied in Athens, Greece, and has traveled extensively. She earned her M.A. degree in reading from Roosevelt University in Chicago and trained as a reading specialist for grades K-12. Mrs. Richter is married with 3 children who all graduated from St. Patrick School. She loves reading, baking, and traveling. At St. Patrick School, she is the Reading Specialist for our students in grades K-8.



Mrs. Molly McGillivray: Learning Specialist

Mrs. McGillivray is a graduate of Carmel High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education from Drake University in Iowa. Mrs. McGillivray received further education from Capella University in Minnesota in Special Education and Early Childhood Education. She is a licensed foster parent. Mrs. McGillivray enjoys camping and canoeing. At St. Patrick School, Mrs. McGillivray provides Special Services to our students in need in Grades K - 8.



Mrs. Jane Gauger: Speech Therapist

Mrs. Gauger graduated from Maine Township High School South in Park Ridge. She went on to receive her Bachelor's and her Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from Illinois State University. Mrs. Gauger has an amazing active life outside of education. She completed the Olympic Distance National Triathlon as well as multiple Century (100 mile) bicycle races. She even was a professional figure skater in the Ice Capades! Mrs. Gauger loves working with students struggling with phonics. She provides Speech Therapy to our students in need.



Mrs. Dora Trygar: Music

Mrs. Trygar is a graduate of Carmel High School in Mundelein, Illinois. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education at Mundelein College, majoring in Voice Performance. Mrs. Trygar is also fluent in Spanish and often tutors this subject. Mrs. Trygar's love for music shines as she teaches our younger students the basics of this art through vocals as well as reading music.



Mrs. Jenise Floyd: Physical Education

Mrs. Floyd is a graduate of Carmel High School in Mundelein, Illinois. She went on to receive her BSE in Physical Education from Truman State University. Mrs. Floyd is an American Heart Association certified CPR instructor as well as a certified catechist. Mrs. Floyd teaches Physical Education to our children in K - 8 as well as Health to the students in





Mrs. Sheri Jones—Librarian / Idea Lab.

Mrs. Jones has been working at St. Patrick School since 2006. She spent 7 years as a teacher aide in 1st grade, and has since worked in 2nd grade, Preschool, 4th and 5th grades and for the past couple years has been running our Library. Mrs. Jones is also helping launch our new STREAM program for our K through 3rd grades and teaching in our brand new IDEA Lab. Her passions outside of St. Patrick School are her family, love of books and being a loyal fan of the Chicago Blackhawks. She has been married for 28 years and has 3 children who are all graduates of St. Pats.



Mrs. Ann Orchard: Librarian / Technology Specialist

Mrs. Orchard graduated from Montini Catholic School. She went on to receive her degree in Sociology from Illinois Wesleyan University. Mrs. Orchard loves to spend time with her family and loves to exercise. Most of all, Mrs. Orchard loves to read. At St. Patrick School, Mrs. Orchard runs the Learning Resource Center. She personally helps our students develop a lifelong love of reading by assisting them in choosing appropriate books for their reading level and interests, challenging them with other literature suggestions and reading with our youngest students. Mrs. Orchard also assists our students in the Computer Lab. She teaches them how to use the latest technology from the basics of keyboarding, navigation and research all the way to staying safe while online.



Mrs. Melissa Ehrsam: Social Worker

Mrs. Ehrsam graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, MI. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University. Mrs. Ehrsam received her Masters in Social Work from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI focusing on Youth, Family - Child Welfare and Delinquency. She specializes in Substance Abuse, Residential Treatment, Domestic Violence and Court Advocacy. Mrs. Ehrsam is the Social Worker for our school. She is available to all of our students as needed for assistance with any of the problems that can arise for our young learners.



Mrs. Linda Schlueter: Preschool Director & Teacher

Mrs. Schlueter has been teaching at St. Patrick's for 12 years. She also taught at the Gurnee Park District Preschool for 3 years. She has a BS/Biochemistry degree from the University of IL at Chicago and worked at Abbott Labs for 10 years. She received her BS/ECE degree from Kendall College after having her daughter. Mrs. Schlueter recently became a certified STEM Mentor through the Erikson Institute of Chicago. She has been lived in Lake County for 25 years with her husband, daughter and their our other child, Sandee the dog.



Mrs. Julie Johnson: Preschool Teacher

Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She began her teaching career at Immaculate Conception School, now known as Most Blessed Trinity Academy, in Waukegan; where she taught First Grade and Prekindergarten for eight years. After the birth of her second child, she came to St. Patrick School to work as a part-time Preschool teacher. When Mrs. Johnson & her husband decided to move to Pleasant Prairie, WI, she took some time off to be a stay at home mom to her two boys, Derek and Kyle. She is truly grateful to be back teaching Preschool at St. Patrick School.



Mrs. Laurie Paterkiewicz: Preschool Teacher

This is Mrs. Paterkiewicz's 19th year as a preschool teacher at St. Pats. She received her Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Education K-8 from Northern Illinois University. She has three daughters who all graduated from St. Patrick School. She is also the proud grandma to two beautiful grandchildren. Mrs. Paterkiewicz and her husband live Gurnee and have been members of St. Patrick's Parish for 25 years.



Mrs. Mary Pohl: Kindergarten

Mrs. Pohl graduated from Bemidji High School in Bemidji, Minnesota. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in Education K - 9 from University of Minnesota. Mrs. Pohl received her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education in Indiana. She is a certified catechist. Mrs. Pohl teaches Kindergarten at St. Patrick School.



Ms. Linda Esser: Kindergarten

Ms. Esser is a graduate of Carmel Catholic High School. She went on to receive her B.A. in education K-9 and English Literature from Mundelein College in Chicago, IL. Ms. Esser received her M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Indiana University. Before coming to St. Patrick School, Ms. Esser was a teacher at St. Peter's School in Antioch. She is a certified catechist. Ms. Esser loves teaching and enjoys gourmet cooking and gardening.



Mrs. Suzanne Jarvis: Grade 1

Mrs. Jarvis graduated from Warren Township High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with additional focus on Spanish and Math from St. Norbert College in Wisconsin. Mrs. Jarvis is a certified catechist. She teaches 1st Grade where she enjoys teaching the full range of the curriculum as well as sign language to our young students.



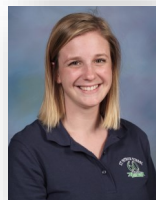
Mrs. Jacqueline Cyphers: Grade 1

Mrs. Cyphers graduated from Zion-Benton High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Her focus has been on history, reading, writing and science. In her spare time, Mrs. Cyphers enjoys watching University of Illinois football and decorating wedding cakes. She teaches 1st Grade at St. Patrick School.



Mrs. Christine Sulla: Grade 2

Mrs. Sulla is a graduate of Maine West High School. She received her B.A. degree in Elementary Education K - 8 and Psychology from Elmhurst College. Mrs. Sulla teaches 2nd Grade. She has a creative side and enjoys bringing various art projects to her classroom.



Miss Bridget Swanson: Grade 2

Miss Swanson graduated from Carmel Catholic High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree from Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, where she majored in Elementary Education and minored in Early Childhood Education. Miss Swanson enjoys watching Notre Dame football, running, and reading in her spare time. She teaches 2nd grade at St. Patrick School.



Ms. Amy Bukantis: Grade 3

Ms. Bukantis graduated from Antioch Community High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from University of Wisconsin - Parkside her Master's in Educational Technology from American College of Education.. Ms. Bukantis teaches 3rd Grade at St. Patrick School.



Mrs. Andrea Uko: Grade 3

Mrs. Uko graduated from Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Loyola University. Mrs. Uko received her Master's Degree and Teacher Certification (MAT Program) from Dominican University. She enjoys family time and anything Disney-related. Mrs. Uko teaches 3rd Grade with a focus on Social



Mrs. Cindy Mary Dziki: Grade 4 Homeroom / 4-5 Religion

Mrs. Dziki graduated from Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Southern Illinois University. Starting her sixth year of teaching at Saint Patrick School, she loves teaching Reading/Language Arts to fourth graders and especially Religion to all intermediate students. Being able to teach the word of Jesus, stories from the Bible, saints and all of the special holidays of the church brings her great joy. Attending mass twice a month is also a wonderful privilege. She has been married for 37 years. She has three wonderful children and four beautiful grandchildren.



Mrs. Becki Chorazy: Grade 5 Homeroom / 5 ELA, Math, and Social Studies

Mrs. Chorazy is very excited to be returning to St. Patrick's and is looking forward to a wonderful year filled with growing, learning and fun. She began teaching in 1999 after graduating from Monmouth College with degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education and she returned to school and graduated with my Masters in Educational Administration from Concordia University in 2016. Her career thus far has spanned a wide range of ages and grades and has included several years working as an assistant principal. This will be her 13th year within the Archdiocese of Chicago and her 7th at St. Patrick.



Mrs. Janet Hart: Grade 4 Homeroom / 4 ELA, Math, and Social Studies

Mrs. Hart graduated from Greenfield High School in Wisconsin. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin - Whitewater. She received an MBA in Business from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management and her degree in Elementary Education from North Park University. Mrs. Hart's areas of focus are Middle School Language Arts, Social Studies and Business with additional interest in Technology, Graphic Arts and Drama. She is a Girl Scout Leader. Mrs. Hart teaches 5th Grade with a focus on Math.



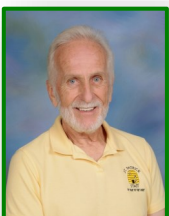
Mrs. Laura Parduhn: Grade 5 Homeroom / 4-5 Science

Mrs. Parduhn graduated from Mundelein High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from University of Illinois - Urbana. Mrs. Parduhn received a Master of Education and Teaching and Learning Program, majoring in Education, from DePaul University. Mrs. Parduhn has graduate level training in Special Education. She is a Teach for America Charter Corps member. Mrs. Parduhn teaches 5th Grade.



Mr. Nicholas Huffman: Intermediate STEM & Math Enhancement

Mr. Huffman graduated from Washington Community High School in Washington, IL. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree in History and Social Sciences from Illinois State University. Mr. Huffman continued his educational career by receiving a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instructional Design. Mr. Huffman enjoys his motorcycle, baseball, technology, building/ construction work, and going back to his family farm in the spring and fall. He currently teaches 4th and 5th grade STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). He also teaches enhancement classes for 4th-6th grade with a focus on measurement and geometry.



Mr. Christopher Garrett: Middle School STEM

Mr. Garrett earned his M.A. degree from DePaul University. He began his teaching career at Kennedy High School in Chicago where he taught language arts and history. He was Personnel Director for O'Hare and Midway Airports and has owned several successful businesses. Mr. Garrett taught language arts, history, science and robotics at St. James School in Highwood, IL for 21 years before coming to St. Patrick School. Mr. Garrett is not only the instructor for our middle school STEM programs but he is also the after school SeaPerch robotics instructor.



Mrs. Katie Miller: Middle School Math

Mrs. Miller graduated from LaPorte High School in LaPorte, Indiana. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Jr. High Mathematics from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. She is Mathematics certified. Mrs. Miller is working towards obtaining her catechist certification. She enjoys knitting and baking. Mrs. Miller teaches 6th through 8th Grade with a focus on Math.



Mrs. Rebecca Mieczynski: Middle School ELA

Mrs. Mieczynski graduated from Irondequoit High School in Rochester, New York. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree from University of Notre Dame where she majored in Drama with a minor in Sociology of Education. Mrs. Mieczynski then received her Masters of Elementary Education from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. Mrs. Mieczynski is a certified catechist, a Reading / Writing Workshop Specialist, a Liturgical Coordinator and a Eucharistic Minister. Mrs. Mieczynski has received additional training in Gifted and Talented as well as Special Education. She teaches 6th through 8th Grade with a focus on Language Arts.



Ms. Jessica Rigwood: Middle School Science

Ms. Rigwood graduated from Vernon Hills High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Secondary Education from Carroll University. She is Science certified in Biology, Environmental Science, and Earth and Space Science. She also received a broad field science license. Ms. Rigwood is working towards obtaining her catechist certification. She enjoys reading, puzzles, and spending time with her family. Ms. Rigwood teaches 6th through 8th Grade Science.



Mrs. Lisa Collin: Middle School ELA

Mrs. Collin graduated from Libertyville High School in Libertyville, Illinois. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree from Marquette University where she majored in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Middle School Teaching. Mrs. Collin is a Eucharistic Minister, Group Leader for the annual Steubenville Youth Conferences, and a Youth Ministry Core Team Member. She enjoys baking and spending time with her family. Mrs. Collin teaches 7th and 8th grade with an emphasis on English Language Arts.



Mrs. Amy Avona: Middle School History

Mrs. Avona graduated from Mundelein High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in History and Secondary Education from Xavier University. Mrs. Avona is a certified catechist. She enjoys quilting and baking. Mrs. Avona teaches 6th through 8th Grade with a focus on Social Studies.



Mrs. Lucy McKinnon: Middle School Religion

Mrs. McKinnon graduated from Schlarman Academy in Danville, Illinois. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University. Mrs. McKinnon is a Liturgical Coordinator and the St. Patrick School Student Council Advisor. Mrs. McKinnon is married and has three daughters, all who graduated from St. Patrick School. She enjoys baking and spending time with her family. Mrs. McKinnon teaches 6th through 8th