

Dear St. James Families,

Happy Friday! I cannot believe we are just about halfway through July! I hope that you are enjoying your summer and surviving the heat. My family and I have been vacationing down the shore. I am blessed to have been able to spend some time away with my parents, my husband, and my daughters. As I sat by the pool, I recalled last summer when I left vacation to go up and interview for the job as Principal. What a year it has been since then, and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity. Many people feel melancholy as we approach the second half of summer and begin to prepare for back to school, but I find myself excitedly anticipating year two.

I have been busy during the last month, and I am excited to announce that I have hired two incredibly qualified teachers to join our faculty.

Please join me in welcoming:

Ms. Diana Salvati – 7th and 8th Grade Religion Teacher

Ms. Salvati will join Mrs. Cunnane as part of our Middle School Religion Faculty. She comes to us with 34 years Catholic School teaching experience including five years in our building when it was St. Madeline-St. Rose. Ms. Salvati retired from teaching in 2022 but misses her interactions with students and since 7th and 8th graders are some of her favorites, joining us to teach them about the New Testament, the life of Jesus and the history of the Church is the perfect opportunity for her to get back into the classroom.

Miss Kasey Habicht – Middle School Math Teacher

I am thrilled to announce that Miss Habicht will be rounding out our Middle School faculty as the math teacher for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Miss Habicht has spent her entire educational career in catholic school. She attended Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast, and this past May she graduated from Cabrini University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Secondary Education. She comes highly recommended from the Principal at Ss. Colman-Neumann where she spent a great deal of time during the past 3 years doing field experience and student teaching.

In addition to teaching Middle School Math, Miss Habicht will coordinate our Terra Nova preparation and testing. Miss Habicht will be a wonderful addition to our faculty and is excited to share her love of math with our students.

The Middle School will be structured as follows:

Miss DiGiacomo

5th Grade HR, 5th Grade ELA

5th Grade Social Studies

Learning Support Teacher - This is a new role that has been created to offer reading, writing, math and study skills support. More to come on this exciting addition to our curriculum.

Mrs. DiIorio:
6th Grade HR, 6th Grade ELA
5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Science

Miss Habicht
7th Grade HR
5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Math
Terra Nova Coordinator, Math Enrichment

Miss Dawkins
8th Grade HR
7th & 8th Grade ELA
6th, 7th, 8th Grade Soc. Studies

Mrs. Cunnane
5th & 6th Grade Religion

Ms. Salvati
7th & 8th Grade Religion

Honors Math:
5th, 6th, 7th Grade – Mrs. McManus
8th Grade – Mr. Mascioli

Upon my return to the office next week, I have interviews scheduled for Kindergarten and Second Grade teachers. In addition, I have interviewed a strong candidate for Music and am working with another Catholic School to determine if he is a good fit for her school as well. Once I have finalized these, I will update our community.

School Uniform Update:

With the help of Ms. Michelle Carter, we have been able to ensure that we will have a skirt and short option for the warm weather girls' uniform. She has been working with our vendor to get the inventory into the school store. We are hoping that we will have them in stock for the warm months of September and October, but if not for the beginning of the year, they will be available by Spring. Attached is an image of a similar skirt. The shorts will be the same plaid.

This is meant to provide a view of the plaid that will be offered. This is not the exact skirt so please do not attempt to buy from another vendor such as Flynn & O'Hara.

Please see the [new school store website](#) for online ordering and appointment availability for in person purchase beginning in August.

Finally, I am working on updates to our Main Office and, as promised, our recess yard. There is much to be done in the final month and a half before the 2024-2025 school year! Stay tuned for more updates!

Many blessings,

Mrs. McManus