

Vol. 12, No. 7 / December 3, 2021

THE FRIDAY UPDATE



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Master Calendar/To-Do List - Pg. 2
- Enrollment & Advancement - Pg. 3
- Professional Development - Pg. 4
- Announcements - Pg. 6
- 2021 HSPA Teacher of the Year Honorees - Pg. 8



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS...

Dear School Leaders,

In this first week of Advent, I am fervently reminded of our mission to bring His Word and Gospel values to our students. In anticipation of Jesus' birth, so many of us are planning Christmas activities, and perhaps, especially looking forward to a new year. Thank you for your support, commitment to safety and security of our students, and the tireless efforts of each of you, in keeping our schools alive and flourishing during this pandemic.

Congratulations to all of our 2021 High School Principal Association (HSPA) Teacher Award winners – both veteran and novice at each high school – who were recognized for their commitment to excellence and faith formation in Archdiocese of Washington Catholic high schools. These educators help our young people, who are the closest to adulthood, discover the full measure of their strengths and potential. We salute these teachers and appreciate their dedication to the teaching vocation.

Let us pray for our 8th graders who took the High School Placement Test this week. May God's favor be with them, in their pursuit of admission to an ADW Catholic high school. Also, in this edition of the Friday Update, we remind you to review information about next year's Open House schedules, as well as, SEVIS information for administrators, when advising our international students on travel during the holidays.

The Catholic Schools Office looks forward to hearing about your activities and joyful celebrations during this sacred time of year. God bless you, always!

In Peace,


Kelly Branaman

THE FRIDAY UPDATE

Vol. 12, No. 7 / December 3, 2021

MASTER CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Immaculate Conception of Mary
APC closed

December 9, 2021
Resource Teacher Meeting
9:00-2:00 PM - St. Mary of the Assumption School

December 24, 2021 - January 2, 2022
CHRISTMAS
APC closed

MASTER TO-DO LIST

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- Please complete the Parent Ambassador Program: Assistance Survey by Friday, December 10 [HERE](#)
 - Review Open House Dates for Catholic Schools Week [HERE](#). If you have any changes, email Barbara Quisquinay at quisquinayb@adw.org
 - Submit 2022-23 marketing priorities determined as part of enrollment forecasting to Anna Quattrone at quattronea@adw.org
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2021 High School Placement Test Reminders

- ADW elementary schools that tested on December 1 must send test scores back to STS by **December 6**. *STS and the ADW are instructing all schools to run a copy of student answer sheets (front and back) before shipping to scoring. These copies should be kept in a secure place and maintained until test results are confirmed as received by STS.*
- The 2021 Confidential Student Information form is available in multiple formats on the Principal Portal [HERE](#). The updated form is due to high schools by **Friday, December 10, 2021**.
- The window to review and modify High School Choices closes on **Sunday, December 12, 2021**.

If you have any questions or concerns about the 2021 High School Placement Test please contact Anna Quattrone at quattronea@adw.org

Parent Ambassador Program: Assistance Survey

The Parent Ambassador Program supports schools with outreach to prospective Hispanic families in the parish and community. This cohort of parents also supports parish and schools events to exchange cultural competency and promote diversity. The Catholic Schools Office is requesting schools to fill out this survey to evaluate the need of support our Parent Ambassador Program can provide to schools.

Please fill the survey before Friday, December 3, 2021 [HERE](#).

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Vol. 12, No. 7 / December 3, 2021

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Winter Courses

3 Credit Courses

Details:

- Online Start Date: January 3, 2022
- Online End Date: February 25, 2022
- Cost: ADW teacher \$75.00/course + cost of book

Courses:

- Assessment for Reading Instruction
- Materials for Reading
- Inclusion: Accessible Education for All
- Digital Tools

1 Credit Courses

Details:

- Live Zoom Sessions every Tuesday from January 4 - February 22
- Cost: ADW teacher \$50.00

Courses:

- Growth Focused Observation and Feedback (10:00 - 11:30AM)
- A Common Vision of Instructional Excellence (3:30 - 4:30PM)

[Click here for more details and to enroll](#)

STREAM Committee Update

On November 17, the STREAM Committee held its first meeting! During this meeting, committee members took first steps in collaboratively developing a philosophy and vision statement for the PK-8 STREAM program framework. STREAM committee members will continue to work together asynchronously until the next live virtual meeting on Wednesday, January 19. Thank you, STREAM committee members, for your time, enthusiasm, and dedication to this project!

We are still in need of committee representation from Southern Maryland and Washington D.C. schools. If you are interested in joining the STREAM committee, please contact Jennifer Monger at mongerj@adw.org for more information.

THE FRIDAY UPDATE

Vol. 12, No. 7 / December 3, 2021

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Resource Teacher Meeting (Agenda)

December 9, 2021

9:00-2:00

St. Mary of the Assumption School, Upper Marlboro, MD

Register [HERE](#)

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING ASSURANCE

Please complete the survey [HERE](#) to assure all students in at your elementary, middle or high schools received safe environment training and records of compliance are maintained according with the Child Protection Policy of the Archdiocese of Washington (Sec. 4.5) and Policies for Catholic Schools. For questions contact Chris Buchleitner to BuchleitnerC@adw.org.



Tips for Traveling During the Holidays

The holiday season is a great time to make plans to travel outside of the United States or back to your home country; however, there are a few things you should know upon your return to school. Here are a couple of tips to keep in mind before you leave and upon your return to the United States.

Tip 1: It is important to have your school's most up-to-date contact information, including a weekend or 24-hour telephone emergency number.

Tip 2: Have all the necessary travel documents. When you enter the United States, you will arrive at a port of entry and meet with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers for primary and sometimes a secondary inspection (if the CBP officer at the port of entry cannot verify your information, or if you do not have all of the required documentation (see list below), you may be directed to an interview area known as "secondary inspection." Secondary inspection allows inspectors to conduct additional research in order to verify information without causing delays for other arriving passengers). The CBP officer may ask questions about your reason for travel and to inspect important documents like your:

- Passport
- Student Visa
- Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status"

*Be sure to hand-carry these items and do not put them in your checked baggage.

Under certain circumstances, the CBP officer may issue a Form I-515A "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor," which authorizes temporary admission into the United States for 30 days while you obtain and submit necessary documentation to SEVP. Work with your school and your DSO without delay to submit the proper documentation required by the Form I-515A.

*Note: If you do not respond to a Form I-515A within 30 days, it will negatively affect your F1 status and you may be required to leave the United States.

Tip 3: Effective November 8, 2021 at 12:01am EST (5:01am GMT), before boarding a flight to the United States from another country, all air passengers – 2 years or older – are required to present a negative COVID-19 viral test.

- If you are fully vaccinated: Proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 3 days before travel.
- If you are not fully vaccinated: A negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel.

THE FRIDAY UPDATE

Vol. 12, No. 7 / December 3, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frontline Teacher Evaluation Calendar of Tasks

DECEMBER 2021

Please see below the Frontline tasks for this month. If you need assistance with the tasks or have any questions, please contact Tiffany at wilsont@adw.org or 301-853-4549. If you would like to schedule Frontline or Danielson training for you or your staff, please click [HERE](#) and select a day and time that is convenient.

Eval. Timeline	Initial Staff Development Stage (1-2 years)	Renewal Stage (1 year)	Professional Growth Stage (1-2 years)	Specific Staff Development Stage (as needed)
TO-DO	Initial Staff Development Stage	Renewal Stage	Professional Growth Stage	Specific Staff Development Stage
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principal does at least one documented walkthroughNew teacher brief check-in meeting (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principal does at least one documented walkthrough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principal does at least one documented walkthrough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principal does at least one documented walkthroughPrincipal and teacher will meet to review professional growth plan



2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Academy of the Holy Cross
Veteran Teacher
Rachel Gryniewicz
7 Years
Latin

The Academy of the Holy Cross is pleased to announce that our Veteran Teacher of the Year Award recipient for 2021 is Rachel Gryniewicz. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics and Art History from Mount Holyoke College, a Master of Arts in Classics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Master of Arts in Teacher Leadership from Mount Holyoke College. Rachel joined the Academy in 2014 as a Latin Teacher, and since that time, has become an exemplary leader and role model for both faculty as well as students. In addition to teaching Latin, she has greatly contributed to the community by accepting additional responsibilities over the years such as moderating our Student Council, Sign Language Club, Bake for Hope Club, Latin Honor Society, and the Students Against Drunk Driving Club. To ensure that our new faculty members adjust to the Academy, Rachel led the Faculty Mentor Program for several years. She also led various group discussions and activities during professional development sessions. Currently, Rachel is the Department Chair for our World Languages Department. We are proud that she is a part of our community.



Academy of the Holy Cross
Novice Teacher
Erica Mullikin
1 year
Theology

The Academy of the Holy Cross is pleased to announce that our Novice Teacher of the Year Award recipient for 2021 is Erica Mullikin. Erica joined the Academy in 2020 and since her arrival, has become an integral part of our Theology Department as well as our entire community. Erica holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology and a Master of Education in Teaching from Mount St. Mary's University. Her love of Theology as well as her love of teaching is apparent to both our faculty and our student body. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Erica is always happy to help with school activities as needed such as our annual Holy Cross Day. She currently moderates our Student Council as well. We are pleased that she is our Novice Teacher of the Year.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Archbishop Carroll High School
Veteran Teacher
Michelle Ming
Technology, Math

Mrs. Michelle Ming has taught in parochial and public schools in Colorado, Maryland and the District of Columbia. After teaching in a traditional classroom for several years, she transitioned to the private sector as a software test engineer. Mrs. Ming returned to education – her first love – as a Technology Coordinator and math teacher. Over the years she has continued her own education, earning multiple certifications in mathematics, engineering education and STEM educational leadership. She recently published her first book -- Love Teaching -- through Pendium Publishing.

Michelle's influence at Archbishop Carroll High school is remarkable to say the least. As Director of Archbishop Carroll's Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering Program, she has been instrumental in inspiring students to love math and science. Her achievements were recognized nationally by PLTW as one of 79 teachers across the country to earn the distinction of Project Lead The Way's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes educators who inspire, engage and empower their students by creating transformative learning experiences in their classrooms through PLTW programs. We are proud that she received this recognition; however, our school has always known her dedication to our students, her craft and our school community. Because of her success in helping students find enthusiasm in scientific exploration and engineering and reinvigorating colleagues in the joy of teaching, Michelle's colleagues found her the clear choice for Veteran Teacher of the Year.



Archbishop Carroll High School
Novice Teacher
Sophia Clarkin
3 years
Social Studies

Our Novice Teacher of the Year, Ms. Sophia Clarkin is in her third year of teaching, as a member of the Social Studies Department of Archbishop Carroll. In only a short time, Ms. Clarkin has already distinguished herself by her desire to grow as an educator as she helps her students grow as college bound scholars. During the 2020-2021 school year, Ms. Clarkin was pivotal in the planning and successful launch of our AP History Program. Her approach to teaching, whether Advanced Placement (AP) or College Prep courses, is to set high standards for students while providing them with the tools and assistance they need to meet or even exceed those standards. Students and colleagues alike, look to Ms. Clarkin as a positive role model who encourages both critical thinking and academic integrity. Her love for her students extends beyond the classroom as is evident in her role as Freshmen class moderator. Her abiding enthusiasm and grit are why Ms. Clarkin's colleagues voted her our Novice Teacher of the Year.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Bishop McNamara High School
Veteran Teacher
Amanda Saunders
5 years
Director of Campus Ministry

Amanda Saunders is the Director of Campus Ministry for Bishop McNamara High School. Ms. Saunders graduated from Neumann University where she majored in Liberal Arts with a focus in Psychology, Theology, and Youth Ministry. In college, she coordinated retreats, led service experiences, and participated in service immersion trips. After college, she did a year of service with the Franciscan Mission Service. In her 5 years at McNamara she has planned and coordinated over 30 retreats, brought service opportunities to campus, and furthered our student leadership programming. Ms. Saunders's ministry is distinguished by her sense of humor, inclusiveness, and joy. She truly exemplifies the virtues of a Holy Cross educator, and thus Ms. Saunders's colleagues found her a clear choice for Veteran Teacher of the Year.



Bishop McNamara High School
Novice Teacher
Alicia Brown
Resource Specialist

Alicia Brown is a Resource Specialist in the St. Joseph Program. She enjoys using her training and experience to design academic strategies and provide enriching learning experiences for students who have learning differences. Mrs. Brown earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Maryland, University College. She has worked in educational institutions teaching English, Latin, Spanish and Geometry as well as providing private instruction and tutoring for many years. She is pursuing her Master of Education in Special Education with a certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders and looks forward to using the knowledge gained to help students thrive in their academic pursuits. Her deep expertise, prayerfulness, and humility are some of the many reasons her colleagues overwhelmingly voted her as Novice Teacher of the Year.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Connelly School of the Holy Child
Veteran Teacher
Christine Jelen
7 years
English

Ms. Chrisy Jelen has, for seven years at the Connelly School of the Holy Child, inspired countless young women to become the best version of themselves. Ms. Jelen's English students often pay her the highest compliment a teacher can receive: "Her class was very hard, but I'm so glad I took it because now I'm a better writer." Students and colleagues benefit alike from her reflective pedagogical practice, her altruistic participation on school committees, her mordant humor, and her consummate sense of style. Ms. Jelen's presence on our school's Kairos retreat is most meaningful to students; they now see a teacher universally known for her daily grammar practice, timed in-class writings, and rigid essay guidelines, as an exemplary woman of faith, deep care, and ethical leadership. Our Holy Child community is lucky to be inspired by Ms. Chrisy Jelen's stalwart educational experience.



Connelly School of the Holy Child
Novice Teacher
Tara Tanasovich
Math

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



DeMatha Catholic High School
Veteran Teacher
Michael Curran
7 Years
Social Studies

Michael Curran ('99) returned to DeMatha Catholic High School to teach in 2014. His undergraduate and graduate work at St. Bonaventure were followed by work at Walt Whitman High School where he became a National Board Certified Teacher. During 2006 Michael taught Math, English, and Social Studies at an AIDS orphanage in Tanzania, Africa. Michael's students at every level succeed because of his intensity and ambition for them. He has chaired the Social Studies department and taught World History, AP US History and an elective course on "9/11 and Memorial." He took on a part in a school production of A Soldier's Story. Michael coaches soccer and has directed one faculty summer seminar and participated in many others. Michael is known for his creativity. A field trip-review for his AP students helps students link the memorials with the history they have been mastering and his trip to New York with his "9/11" students has inspired countless college essays. His students rave about him: "Mr. Curran is the greatest teacher I have had... The amount of effort he puts in to each class is insane." And, "Mr. Curran is simply awesome!" DeMatha Catholic High School is delighted to recognize Michael Curran as its HSPA Veteran Teacher of the Year.



DeMatha Catholic High School
Novice Teacher
Andrew Eck
4 Years
English

Andrew Eck ('11) is DeMatha Catholic High School's Novice Teacher of the Year. Upon completion of his Bachelor's degree in English, Andrew joined DeMatha's intern program and made his impact felt immediately by throwing himself into every aspect of school life. He has been the assistant director of several productions including Man of La Mancha; he has been on countless service trips, spoken at numerous retreats, and performed at Open Mic events. Andrew cantors at Mass and his performances at our annual Freshman Poetry Throw-Down are the stuff of legend. After his first year as an Intern, Andrew has taught English at various grade levels and assisted in Admissions. Students describe him as "inspirational," "a great person to talk to," and someone who "made class fun," and "helped me discover my passion for writing." DeMatha Catholic High School is happy to recognize Andrew as our HSPA Novice Teacher of the Year.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School

Veteran Teacher

Lesbern Wilkins

7 Years

Science (Physical Science & Physics)

Lesbern Wilkins has been a member of our faculty at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School since 2014 and has taught various courses in our Science Department, including Physical Science, Chemistry and Physics. Lesbern has been flexible, hardworking and has continued to find ways to grow and to become a better teacher. Lesbern is currently our Science Department Chair. Over the years, she has been very committed to the DBCR mission and has worked tirelessly to make science both practical, engaging and fun for the students. Lesbern has continued to find ways to meet her students where they are, shows them care and attention, while holding them accountable and having high expectations. Lesbern has been a positive presence among the faculty, showing them constant support and through modeling of our Salesian Charism. Lesbern is a moderator of the Caribbean American Student Association (CASA) and of the African Student Association (ASA), which are clubs that celebrate students' identity, presence, and contribution to our school community. Lesbern is a great asset to our school community!



Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School

Novice Teacher

Emily McSwain

3 Years

English (11th grade and AP English Language)

Emily McSwain has been a faculty member at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School since 2018 and is currently teaching 11th grade English and AP English Language. Emily is a passionate educator and is beloved by her students, whom she cares deeply about. Emily has helped countless students find books that they genuinely enjoy and has cultivated so many poets in her classroom. She approaches the classroom as a lifelong learner, and that shows in everything that she does. Emily has given students a space to exercise their voices and has helped each of her students to connect to literature in meaningful ways. Emily serves as the Junior Grade Level Chair and advocates that the faculty voices and needs are heard, while ensuring that the development of the whole student is at the forefront. Emily is also the moderator of the Literary and Visual Arts (LAVA) Club, where the students can showcase their many talents in writing, drawing and creative self-expression. The culminating result of this club has been the production the literary arts magazine, *The Trash Bin*, which has already published several volumes. Emily has made many contributions to making DBCR a great learning community.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Elizabeth Seton High School
Veteran Teacher
Mandy Teal-Kilmer
7 years
Social Studies

Mandy Teal-Kilmer, or Mrs. TK, joined the Seton community in 2014 and has been a positive and enthusiastic influence on her students ever since. She has been a steady presence in the Social Studies department, specializing in World History, and a kind and patient mentor to students in Seton's Bayley Program. Mrs. TK has recently helped to expand the electives in the Social Studies department by offering new courses related to Global Studies. Outside of the classroom, Mrs. TK is the moderator of Seton's chapter of the "Girl Up" club, as well as a leader in the Seton Speaks and Seton Wise programs. She also has been active in the athletic department as a coach for varsity soccer and more currently, the new Seton club soccer program. Mrs. TK is widely respected by fellow staff members for her passionate spirit and love of bettering the school community; she was elected to be a faculty representative for the current school year. Mrs. TK's students lovingly know her as someone who is "always there no matter what" and who will "go the extra mile to set up extra hours to help you write a paragraph, catch up on drawing class, or just talk." Mrs. TK consistently models her own philosophy that Seton is a "community of ordinary people working to be the change we want to see in the world" by being a force of good and the consummate role model of having the light to know, and the grace to do.



Elizabeth Seton High School
Novice Teacher
Sean Hutzell
1 year
Social Studies

Mr. Sean Hutzell has been an active and dynamic member of Seton's Social Studies department since 2020. In his short time at Seton, Mr. Hutzell has taught AP World History, Honors US History, Brown's Basics (Pre-Law), and all levels of Rhetoric and Debate. Mr. Hutzell joined the staff shortly before the switch to virtual learning, and quickly became a model of resilience for his enthusiasm to continue his students' education despite the challenges of the year. Since then, Mr. Hutzell has continued to make his mark on the Seton community by helping to actively build the Pre-Law Academy and supervise students in the Mock Trial competition and Junior State of America (JSA) for the past two years. Mr. Hutzell cites the growth and maturing of the students as his favorite part of teaching, and his students fondly know Mr. Hutzell as "caring, patient, kind, dedicated, and always available to help us achieve success." He makes sure that his students not only understand, but also enjoy what they are being taught. Mr. Hutzell's invaluable contributions to his students and the pre-law program have had a large impact in his first few years of teaching, and we are blessed to have him as an integral member of our community.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

Veteran Teacher

Carolyn Fay

9 years

History

Now in her ninth year at Visitation, Carolyn has demonstrated the best qualities of a Catholic school teacher and is this year's Veteran Teacher of the Year. Not only has she embraced teaching as a ministry, she also promotes respect for the Catholic identity and the charism of her school. Her impetus for seeking a position at Visitation after receiving her undergraduate degree and teaching for two years in a public school was to share her love of the Catholic Faith and her passion for education. While at GV, she has earned the respect of students and colleagues with her energetic style in teaching Global Patterns, the ninth-grade history course, and AP Psychology, an upper-class elective where her students consistently earn the highest scores. A life-long learner, Carolyn has sought professional development and earned a Masters of Education in Transformative Teaching from George Mason University. As one colleague noted, Carolyn "is such a warm presence to the students and always is positive with them - I know they love her and appreciate her for her as a person but also for how great of a teacher she is." Carolyn sums up her pleasure in teaching as GV: "I enjoy going to work every day - it's a lot of fun."



Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

Novice Teacher

Nina Kapuza

3 years

History

Georgetown Visitation is proud to name Nina Kapuza this year's Novice Teacher of the Year. Now in her third year, Nina has met the challenge of transitioning from teaching at the college level as a fellow at Boston University (where she expects to receive her Ph.D. in American History this year) to teaching at the high school level. She appreciates her "curious, motivated, and adaptable students who are open to challenges." A passionate scholar, Nina is immersed in American History and is the ideal teacher for all five sections of AP US History. Often cited by colleagues and students as "one of the hardest working educators, she is always striving to do what is best to serve her students and is selfless in the number of hours she puts into perfecting her craft. Her students adore her - and not only because she is nice, but also because she prepares them so well." Kudos to Nina!

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Gonzaga College High School
Veteran Teacher
Brendan Hartnett
Religion

A graduate of Gonzaga's class of 1997, Brendan Hartnett returned to Gonzaga in the fall of 2002. He earned his undergraduate degree in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America and his graduate degree in Education from the Institute of Catholic Educational Leadership at the University of San Francisco. Brendan served as the Director of Campus Ministry for several years before transitioning to a teaching position in the Religion Department. He has served as chair for the last two years. Brendan strives to inspire his students to understand and live their faith through encouraging critical thinking and modeling the Jesuit charism of *Cura Personalis* in his teaching. Outside of Gonzaga, Brendan enjoys spending time with friends, his amazing wife Erin, and their three beautiful children Jackson, Matthew, and Maggie.



Gonzaga College High School
Novice Teacher
Ciaran Freeman
2 years
Fine Arts

Originally from New Jersey, Ciaran Freeman arrived at Gonzaga in the fall of 2019 as a Fine Arts teacher. He is an alumnus of Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City, NJ and Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, CA where he studied Studio Art and Art History. He is currently working on his master's degree in Art Education through Boston University. Freeman believes that empathy is fostered through direct experiences with art. Making, looking at and talking about art helps to form students as men for and with others. Since arriving at Gonzaga, he has immersed himself in the life of the school. He moderates the Aetonian Yearbook, regularly serves on retreat and service teams, and teaches Gonzaga's Broadcast Journalism Course, WZAG. Outside of Gonzaga, Ciaran Freeman regularly publishes writing on art and culture with America Media, the National Catholic Reporter and with Fordham University's Center on Religion and Culture.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
Veteran Teacher
Geomone Jonson
14 years
Computer Studies

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School proudly recognizes Geomone Jonson as the 2021 Veteran Teacher of the Year. During her 14 years of service with Good Counsel, Geomone has proven herself to be an individual wholly committed to her students and colleagues alike. In the classroom, her Yearbook and Video Design classes offer students engaging ways to express their creativity. Geomone has a wonderful way of guiding students through the design process with positive reinforcement and patience. Geomone's dedication extends beyond the Computer Studies classroom to include serving as moderator for clubs, chaperone for school trips, and source of support for all those in need. Most notably, Geomone has helped facilitate student exchanges with a partner school in Barcelona, participated in our service trip to El Salvador, and helped initiate a service trip to Jamaica. A collaborative and highly regarded colleague, Geomone consistently contributes her perspective and experience as a leader in diversity and inclusion efforts. Geomone's many contributions to the Good Counsel community and our shared commitment to service are certainly worthy of recognition. In this way, Geomone represents the best of what it means to be an educator in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers. Our Lady of Good Counsel High School is truly blessed to honor Geomone as this year's Veteran Teacher of the Year.



Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
Novice Teacher
Daniel Booth
2 years
Math

In only his second year of service at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, Daniel Booth has already made a noticeable impact on the school community. Despite the challenges of a year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Daniel immediately immersed himself in the Good Counsel community. Daniel wasted no time forming relationships with students in his math classroom (both online and in-person), on the soccer field, and on retreats as well. As a math teacher, Daniel has made an immediate impact on his students by encouraging them to build confidence in their ability, engaging them with content, and making real life connections to what they are learning. Daniel's ability to make connections with his colleagues despite the challenges of the pandemic has been similarly impressive. The consummate team player, Daniel has sought ways to contribute to his department and to the broader school community as well. Eager to embrace our Xaverian mission and identity, Daniel has volunteered in a variety of capacities with the sole goal of serving and supporting our students to the best of his abilities. Unquestioningly, Daniel embodies the Xaverian Brothers' values of Simplicity, Humility, Compassion, Zeal, and Trust and is well deserving of the honor of Novice Teacher of the Year.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Saint John's College High School

Veteran Teacher

Irene Murphy

11 years

Modern Language – Latin

Irene has been the primary Latin instructor at St. John's for eleven years. She truly makes classical languages come alive. Her passion to teach Latin is exemplified by her continued innovation in the classroom, from using innovative pedagogy to implementing unique and effective class participation rubrics to encourage engagement and structure. Anyone who enters her classroom knows that Ms. Murphy brings this language to life. She has been the school's Academic Coach, and she is also the Lasallian Animator at St. John's. She is primarily responsible for the formation of faculty in the Lasallian charism by facilitating programs, presenting, and offering resources. She is also a leader in the Washington Area Latin Association. Ms. Murphy's commitment to cultivating her students' faith in God and her commitment to Latin education go hand in hand.



Saint John's College High School

Novice Teacher

Tom Iannacone

4 years

Science/ Honors Biology

Tom is in his fourth year at SJC as a Science teacher and assumed the position of Science Department Chair last year. In the classroom, he brings a vast expertise and passion for Biology. His focus on a blend of instructional technology, innovative lab work, and concrete skills' development for 9th graders creates a strong foundation for his students. In his role as chair, he has learned quickly the ways to most significantly support faculty, create structures to invite professional learning, and navigate the challenges presented during the pandemic. In particular, Tom's ability to foster collaborative work in content areas and support new faculty are noteworthy.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Saint Mary's Ryken High School
Veteran Teacher
Kelly Draksler
5 years
History

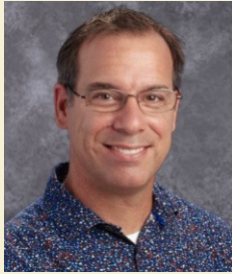
Mrs. Kelly Draksler is a chair of the history department and she joined the St. Mary's Ryken community in the fall of 2016. She earned a master's degree in teaching, with a specialization of secondary education and social studies, from Towson University. As a dedicated history teacher, Mrs. Draksler utilizes her passion to instill a love of learning in her students. Her creativity in teaching methods help to encourage a value for history, while also deepening their understanding of often times difficult subject matter. Mrs. Draksler is described as a consummately professional educator, a meticulous planner, a smart department chair, and an honest communicator. Dean of Academics, Brad Chamberlain, remarks "she genuinely cares about the students in her classes, both as students of history and as young men and women who are new to SMR and all the challenges of high school. She is truly one of the most important people in the process of helping our new students understand how high school works and how to be successful in that structure. I have always been impressed by her calm demeanor and her ability to work with all kinds of students. She seems to genuinely appreciate them and they respond in kind. I remember an alumni came to school last year and he said no matter what he HAD to see Mrs. Draksler before he left. What a testament to how much she ultimately becomes valued and respected by her students. In truth, they may not understand the gifts she is sharing with them when they are in 9th grade, but eventually they will. We are blessed to have her here with us at SMR and she is most deserving of this award."



Saint Mary's Ryken High School
Novice Teacher
Brian Loewe
5 years
Physical Education

Mr. Brian Loewe holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Management and Recreation from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and teaches Physical Education at St. Mary's Ryken. Mr. Loewe also uses his wealth of experience in recreation to manage SMR facilities rentals and intramural sports. Mr. Loewe joined in the SMR community in the fall of 2019 and early on in his tenure has demonstrated a true passion for students, faculty and staff and the Xaverian charism. Principal Catherine Bowes says that Mr. Loewe is, "positive and energetic, he is omni-present, making sure that our health and wellness Center and campus venues are ready for both those in our immediate community and those in the greater Southern Maryland Community. He has forged relationships with groups like Special Olympics to make sure they have what they need to feel welcome on our campus. He greets and stewards visiting athletic teams in way that honors them and assures they have what they need. Mr. Loewe has a special warmth and care for young people and he volunteers his time to make sure that those he looks out for are thriving in the classroom and in play. Mr. Loewe is a true Knight and servant-leader. His kindness and positive energy make SMR a better place to be."

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Saint Vincent Pallotti High School
Veteran Teacher
21 years
Niko Iampieri
Instrumental Music

Niko Iampieri is the director of St. Vincent Pallotti's instrumental music program. He has taught at Pallotti since 2000. He has overseen and guided the growth of Pallotti's instrumental music program from its inception to the full program that exists today, which includes a concert band, wind ensemble, jazz band, pep band, and Arts Academy students pursuing an intensive 4-year program of study. In addition to directing multiple bands, Niko coordinates private lessons for our Arts Academy and oversees numerous part-time adjunct faculty. Niko, also known as "Mr. I", is known for his dedication to his students and the school. He is the ultimate team player and is beloved by students and colleagues alike.



Saint Vincent Pallotti High School
Novice Teacher
Ellen Lingenfelter
2 years
Learning Center/English

Ellen Lingenfelter is the director of the Steven J. Edmonds Learning Center. She daily works with and oversees the support services for Pallotti's students with learning differences. While this is only her second year at St. Vincent Pallotti, she comes to us with a wealth of experience in other Catholic and independent schools. "Ms. L" is a passionate and dedicated advocate for her students and consistently goes above and beyond for them. In addition to overseeing the Learning Center, she also piloted a new support program for struggling students in our general population, helped direct Pallotti's summer school, and is teaching a section of freshman English. Her energy, experience, and ideas are a great gift to St. Vincent Pallotti High School.

2021 High School Principal Association *Teacher of the Year Award*



Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Veteran Teacher

Peter Rook

14 years

World Languages

Peter has enjoyed teaching Latin and coaching Cross-Country and Track & Field at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart since 2007-08. His formative experience as a student was "Greek Day" in 4th grade at the Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia – where he earned a medal in the "Marathon" (two laps around the field), made his own Chiton, and learned the Greek alphabet – he was hooked on both Classics and running. In his teaching career at Stone Ridge he has been fortunate enough to continue living that joy alongside Latin scholars at all levels (Latin I - AP Latin) as well as the student athletes throughout the year in Cross-Country, Winter Track, and Spring Track & Field. Mens sana in corpore sano! He cherishes the opportunity to both teach and coach at Stone Ridge with so many wonderful colleagues and students. Peter received a BA in Classical Languages from Haverford College in 2002 and an MA in Classics from the University of Virginia in 2007. His formal study of classical languages started in 7th grade Latin, added ancient Greek in 9th grade, and continues to this day. Peter also competed in Cross-Country/Track & Field throughout high school and college, as well as several years post college. He is a die-hard Philadelphia sports fan, enjoys competitive trivia, and tries to keep in good enough shape to keep up with some of Stone Ridge student runners.



Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Novice Teacher

Stanley Johnson

Educational Technology

Stanley has been fortunate to be an educator for more than twenty-five years. During that time he had served in many capacities, including learning innovator, technology policymaker, and educational technology program planner and implementer. Formerly with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Stan served as Executive Director of Instructional Technology and State Educational Technology Director. In that role, he developed state and local educational technology standards for the use of hardware and software for the school system and aligned all related professional development for teachers and administrators. Stan has served as an advisor for a broad range of child and educator-focused technology and public policy initiatives including the Public Broadcasting System's National Teachers' Institute; Fairfax Public Schools; Apple; IBM; and the former Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. He has testified before Congress and has participated in international technology roundtables between policymakers and educators from around the world. Now, as one of the newest members of the Stone Ridge School Community, he looks forward to using all of his experiences and skills to help support the students, staff, and faculty of the Upper School.