



Catholic Schools
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October 26, 2018

The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office congratulates the 2018 High School Teachers of the Year award honorees. The awards were presented during the annual High School Principals Association professional development day at DeMatha Catholic High School on Friday, October 26, 2018. Each of the Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Washington was invited to participate by selecting **two Teachers of the Year**: (1) A teacher selected from the **veteran** faculty pool, and (2) another teacher selected from the **novice** teachers in their first, second or third year. Each schools selection of their two *Teachers of the Year* were by either faculty vote or other representative process.

These awards were established to recognize the devotion of veteran and novice Catholic secondary school teachers in the Archdiocese of Washington. They speak to the value we all place on faithful service, excellence, best practices, and innovations in Catholic secondary school teaching.

2018 High School Teachers of the Year



Archbishop Carroll High School Veteran Teacher of the Year: Wenzel Burton

In his 20 years of service at Archbishop Carroll High School, Mr. Wenzel Burton has been a well respected teacher and valued mentor to his students. Wenzel has taught every grade level and almost every course offering in the Science Department during his tenure. Currently, Wenzel teaches Introduction to Engineering, the year one course offering for Project Lead the Way, Pre-Engineering Pathway. In addition, he also teaches 10th grade Biology and Environmental Science offered to our 11th and 12th graders. Outside of his role as a teacher, Mr. Burton is well known and appreciated by parents, staff, and colleagues as one who truly lives out the school's mission. Wenzel's ability to inspire, guide, and relate to his students is due not only to his genuinely good nature and kindness, but is also the result of hard work and commitment to his craft. Archbishop Carroll is proud to honor Wenzel Burton as our Veteran Teacher of the Year.



Archbishop Carroll High School Novice Teacher of the Year: Alyson Faller

Since 2015, Alyson Faller has brought a passion for teaching French and a dedication to the virtues of Catholic education to the students of Archbishop Carroll High School. Ms. Faller is known by her peers as a person of dedication, faith, and limitless patience. Alyson can be found in the hallways, brimming with enthusiasm as she welcomes students, ushers them to class, and gently reminds them to walk to the right. Alyson is always willing to give her support in any area. She currently serves as the Foreign Language Department chair and assists with the coordination of the Archbishop Carroll International Baccalaureate Programme. Ms. Faller has proven time and time again to be the resident "Excel Guru" and the Queen of Data Analysis needed to move our academic programs forward. It is with pride, respect, and affection that Archbishop Carroll honors Alyson Faller as our 2018 Novice Teacher of the Year.



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**The Academy of the Holy Cross Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Laura Meehan**

Our Veteran Teacher of the Year, Laura Meehan, joined the faculty of The Academy of the Holy Cross as a music teacher in our Performing Arts Department in 2014 and became department chair in 2015. Mrs. Meehan holds a bachelor's degree in Music with a concentration in Musical Theatre from The Catholic University of America. She has directed and performed in musicals in numerous theatres in the Washington DC area and performs professionally in the band, The Chance Club. Under her leadership, the Performing Arts Department has expanded to include more instrumental classes, the A Capella, Ukulele, and Guitar clubs. Her students routinely participate in All-State Chorus, All-Catholic Honors Chorus, and the WAMTC Honor Band and Orchestra. Regarding her students, Mrs. Meehan commented, "I hope my students remain endlessly curious. Music encompasses all subject areas; you cannot help but talk to a singer about anatomy or to a percussionist about math, or discuss a work's historic and geographic context, or observe the transcendent nature of music in people's lives. Whether or not my students go on to make music a career, there's proof that making music makes them better citizens."



**The Academy of the Holy Cross Novice Teacher of the Year:
Mary DeBroeck**

Our Novice Teacher of the Year, Mary DeBroeck, joined The Academy of the Holy Cross as a Theology teacher in 2016. She was highly motivated to join the faculty as a result of her wonderful experience as a student in a single-sex Catholic high school in Texas and her love of Catholicism. Ms. DeBroeck holds a Master of Arts in Philosophy from The Catholic University of America as well as a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from The University of Saint Thomas. She will soon earn her doctorate in Systematic Theology from The Catholic University of America. When asked about her teaching approach, Ms. DeBroeck commented, "Teaching theology is both a constant challenge and joy that involves not just explaining Catholic doctrine, but leading each student to a fundamental awareness of his or her human dignity and to an understanding that we love God through serving others and working for justice." Certainly, her teaching philosophy is perfectly aligned with the mission of The Academy of the Holy Cross, and we are delighted that Ms. DeBroeck is such a valued member of our community.



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**Bishop McNamara High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Adam Greer**



Adam Greer exemplifies our vocation as Holy Cross educators, and models servant leadership in his work as Theology Department Chair and Coordinator for Holy Cross Employee Formation. Currently in his 13th year on the faculty, Adam has taught courses in Theology (all grade levels), AP Psychology, and interdisciplinary electives in “The Holocaust” and “Religion and Society.” Adam graduated from Gettysburg College with a triple major in History, Psychology, and Religion, and later earned an M.A. at Georgetown University; his Master’s Thesis was entitled “The Role of National Parishes within Ethnic Enclaves on the Americanization Process of Catholic Immigrants through Baltimore Ports” where he looked at how Italian and Polish immigrants entered into mainstream America with the help of the Catholic Church. Most weekends, Mr. Greer may be found reading a book, outside enjoying nature, or glued to a TV cheering on one of his favorite sports teams and of course spending time with his wife, two children, and three dogs. Because of his dedication to educating both the heart and the mind, Adam’s colleagues found him a clear choice for Veteran Teacher of the Year.

**Bishop McNamara High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Craig Glover-Hines**



Craig Glover-Hines is a man who truly has a heart for ministry and the youth. A 2009 graduate of the school, Craig now makes a lasting impact in the lives of our students as a member of the faculty, teaching 9th graders in Gateway Seminar. An avid sports fan, Craig is also a moderator for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and serves as chaplain for our boys football and boys basketball teams. Craig believes that the trials and tribulations of life are truly what build character, form unity, and strengthen faith; these principles are outlined and highlighted in his recent book titled “P’s & Q’s: The Journey to Becoming Prime Quality.” Craig graduated from Mount St. Mary’s University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Minor in Theology, and plans to pursue a Divinity Degree in the future while offering guidance and teaching to younger generations. His humility and piety are some of the many reasons Craig’s colleagues voted him our Novice Teacher of the Year.



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**Connelly School of the Holy Child Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Karen Craig**

Karen Craig is a valued teacher at Connelly School of the Holy Child who is committed to her profession, students and the Holy Child community. She has demonstrated strong academic and spiritual leadership skills, commitment to the development of the whole student, and is dedicated to influencing students to respond to the call for peace and justice. Over the years, Karen has been an instrumental leader who has supported 6-12 alignment of our school program through her strong collaborative skills. She assisted in textbook evaluation and adoption, new course development and when asked to teach an upper school course after years of Middle school social studies, embraced the challenge. Karen is committed to the whole child and

takes her responsibilities seriously. She regularly seeks opportunities to teach her students the importance of rising to the call of peace and justice by taking students to diversity conferences and by holding regular discussions regarding current topics. She has held a leadership position on our Mission Effectiveness Team for several years because of her commitment to the vision and values of Connelly School of the Holy Child and her commitment to her Catholic heritage and values. Karen is truly a joy to work with and is a blessing to Connelly School of the Holy Child



**Connelly School of the Holy Child Novice Teacher of the Year:
Nawil Jama**

Nawil Jama joined Holy Child in 2016 as a member of the Mathematics Department. Having an extensive background in teaching mathematics and tutoring students for the SAT and ACT, she brings a depth of knowledge that has enhanced the school's focus on student success in mathematics. Nawil emphasizes the importance of a growth mindset in her classroom and recognizes the obligation to empower young women to believe in their ability to succeed in the STEM fields. She is exceptionally dedicated to her students and their mastery of math concepts and skills and her contributions to Holy Child are greatly appreciated. Nawil is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Financial Services and M.Ed in Secondary Education. Nawil is a consummate professional, collaborator and teacher and we are blessed to have her as a member of our Holy Child Community.



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**DeMatha Catholic High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Paul Clark**

Paul Clark '01 has been teaching English at DeMatha for 13 years. He helped pilot our Intern program. Paul is wildly in demand as a teacher of American Literature and Creative Writing and his senior seminar on Tolkien is always over-subscribed; he has coached lacrosse and moderated the literary magazine. Paul has participated in several Cerfroid Summer Seminars and directed one. Senior exit interviews run to several pages of students praising his scholarship, passion, deep affection for them, and support of their growth. Paul's scrupulous looks at himself as a teacher are inspirational to students and colleagues. Two of his students said, "[He] taught me about the complex nature of man's existence and his essence...." and "[He] always pushes me to be the best I can be, even when I do not believe in myself."



**DeMatha Catholic High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Patrick Goulden**

Patrick Goulden '09 returned to DeMatha in 2015 to help us inaugurate a comprehensive induction class, The DeMatha Way. For four years now, Pat has been the lead teacher introducing every freshman to the tradition, culture, and history of the school and giving them the skills both academic and social to succeed at DeMatha. Along the way, he has taught psychology, attended service trips, taught Health, and coached football. He has volunteered at a Crisis Hotline and started work on a Master's degree. Pat's students seek him out for advice in all sorts of situations since they know he is both a good listener and an outstanding moral compass who will give them the attention and advice they need to hear, not just what they want to hear.



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**Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Frances Santiago**



Frances Santiago has been a member of the Don Bosco Cristo Rey faculty since 2014. She is currently chair for our Foreign Language Department, having taught native and non-native Spanish sections over the years. Ms. Santiago has been instrumental in developing and implementing curriculum for the department, to ensure it targets different types of learners at their levels. Ms. Santiago also ensures that she builds strong and positive rapport with her students and is deeply committed to seeing them succeed. She is the moderator of the DIY (Do It Yourself) Club and most recently was instrumental in organizing and taking a group of 14 students on a service trip to help build homes in Puerto Rico due to the catastrophe left behind by Hurricane Maria. Through her actions and personal drive, Ms. Santiago continues to encourage all students to live out our school motto and to 'be who they are and be it well'. We are thankful to have Ms. Santiago be a part of our faculty!

**Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Esther Owens**



Esther Owens has been a member of the Don Bosco Cristo Rey (DBCR) faculty since 2015. She currently teaches sophomore Theology, is the sophomore grade level chair, and has been the cross-country track coach. Mrs. Owens leads by example and models to her students how they should live their lives according to the Gospel and teachings of the Church. Since her arrival to DBCR, Mrs. Owens has embraced the Salesian charism and promotes our pillars of faith, family, future and fun. On a daily basis she continues to find creative ways to keep her students engaged and active in their learning. Mrs. Owens contributes to the spiritual growth of the whole school community, has been active in Youth Ministry and has assisted with different retreats. Currently, she is helping to organize a learning experience about immigration for a group of our students to travel to Arizona, and participate in a program called "El Otro Lado." Mrs. Owens is a parishioner at St. Jerome's in Hyattsville. We are thankful to have Mrs. Owens be a part of our faculty!



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**Elizabeth Seton High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Dr. Anne Carroll**

Anne Carroll started at Elizabeth Seton High School as an assistant crew coach in spring 2011 and began teaching English at Seton that fall. She has been one of the English department's co-chairs since 2016. She usually teaches our juniors and seniors, in our American literature class, our African American literature seminar, our British literature class, and our AP literature and composition class. She also has taught creative writing and literature and film electives, and she was the yearbook advisor for three years. She has published many academic book reviews, articles, and a book on the Harlem Renaissance. At Seton, she also is active in our Encounter retreats, moderated our Photography Club until last year, and now moderates our Book Club. Dr. Carroll's students praise her for her passion and enthusiasm for literature, but mostly for her ability to "encourage us to think for ourselves and to create our own perspectives instead of what we believe is expected of us." Dr. Carroll is highly respected and admired by all staff and students for sharing her love of literature and for her contributions to the Seton community.



**Elizabeth Seton High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Elizabeth Roewedder**

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 2016 with a degree in Secondary Education and Mathematics, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rowedder began teaching in the Math Department at Elizabeth Seton High School, teaching Algebra, Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics. Mrs. Rowedder's students appreciate her teaching methods that make math accessible and fun to all types of math learners, and especially appreciate her compassion, her sense of humor and her corny math jokes. She can often be found providing extra help to students outside normal classroom hours or participating in student activities. Mrs. Rowedder's colleagues recognize her as the consummate "team player;" she is thoughtful and collaborative, and always volunteers to help with tasks and contribute ideas as we plan for the future. Additionally, Mrs. Rowedder is a wonderful role model for our students as the freshman class moderator and the moderator for the newly formed Economics club, "The Forum." She exemplifies in every way for our community, the light to know and the grace to do.



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Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Kathryn Krueger



As an alumna of the Class of 1999 and a graduate of University of Notre Dame's Honors Math Program in 2003, Kati Hylden Krueger was destined to return to her alma mater to teach math. Since 2009, Kati has imbued the Visitation community with her devout faith and stellar intellectual gifts. Not only has she inspired young minds in the math classroom, she has helped to revamp the curriculum to open the doors to Calculus for all students. Kati cites GV's approach to "meeting the developmental needs of students over four years" as key. She emphasizes communication skills with students who showcase their math knowledge through interactive presentations and posting videos on YouTube. Of equal importance to Kati as a Catholic educator is her involvement in promoting Salesian spirituality. She served as Salesian coordinator for Students from 2014-2017, leading the Salesian homeroom and organizing the annual Founders' Day. Currently she edits "Loving Life, Living Jesus," a weekly blog of reflections from students, alumnae, parents, and current and past teachers. For the past nine years, Kati has advanced professionally, assuming leadership of the math department in 2013 and earning a master's degree in Catholic Schools Leadership from the University of Notre Dame in 2017. Visitation is proud to name Kati Krueger as our Veteran Teacher of the Year.

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Novice Teacher of the Year:
McNevin Morris



While McNevin Molloy Morris has been teaching at Georgetown Visitation for only three years, she first arrived on campus as a freshman in 1994. The youngest of five sisters to attend GV, McNevin graduated from James Madison University in 2002, majoring in Communications and playing on JMU's Division I Lacrosse team. Passionate about the health and wellness of young women, she has pursued a career in education, serving as GV's Assistant Director of Admissions, Assistant Varsity Field Hockey and Varsity Lacrosse coach, and since 2015, Physical Education and Personal Development teacher. This year she assumed duties as chair of Physical Education Department. Bringing to the classroom the same buoyant enthusiasm she demonstrated on the playing field, McNevin primes the pump for engaging and energetic lessons on the physical, mental, and social aspects of human development. Her fervor for fitness has inspired her after school 14-week intensive strengthening and conditioning program called "Morris Muscle," where athletes prepare for spring sports. She has also collaborated with school nurse Heidi Greenhalgh to create "Workplace Wellness," a program for the adult community. Above all, McNevin relishes the opportunity to offer "life lessons" to her students as they navigate life's challenges. Visitation is proud to name McNevin Morris as our Novice Teacher of the Year for 2018.



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**Gonzaga College High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
John Heetderks**



Mr. John Heetderks arrived at Gonzaga as a science teacher in the fall of 1999, took a leave of absence in 2004 to care for his young children, and returned to Gonzaga in 2008. Since that time, he has served as an AP science teacher, whose students score extremely well. John has worn many other hats as well. He has served as a member of the Headmaster's Advisory Committee and the Academic Council and currently serves as Science Department chair. John is the moderator of Gonzaga's It's Academic Club and has played an intricate role in the reshaping of Gonzaga's science and technology curriculum. He is often sought after by administration, faculty and staff for his wisdom and ability to bring a calm logic to all situations. John takes his formation as a Jesuit educator seriously. He is a graduate of the Magis program and is currently enrolled in the Seminars in Ignatian Leadership. John is the consummate Catholic school educator.



**Gonzaga College High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Conor Scott**

Since the fall of 2015, Conor Scott has brought a passion for teaching and a dedication to student learning to his Gonzaga classroom. Conor is the sole AP Economics teacher with 5 full sections and over 130 students. Simply managing that load would be a challenge, but Conor does so with tact and acuity, as evidenced by a 90% pass rate on the AP Micro and Macroeconomics exams. Conor has also been very active as an assistant Cross Country coach and in Gonzaga's summer service programs, leading trips in each of his years at our school. He is an avid fan of roadside attractions and has travelled the country seeking out the interesting and the unusual!



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**Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Michael Curtin**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School proudly recognizes Michael Curtin as the 2018 Veteran Teacher of the Year. During his ten years at Good Counsel, Michael has made a considerable impact in and beyond the classroom. Michael has taught literature on just about every level from Freshman Literary Classics Seminar to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate World Literature. Regardless of the age or ability level of the students in his class, Michael is able to meet them where they are, engage them with well-chosen works paired with his own enthusiasm, and walk with them as they grow both as individuals and as learners. Beyond the classroom, Michael's service as moderator of the It's Academic Team is only surpassed by his ongoing support of Good Counsel's retreat program. Recently, Michael has also assumed leadership of a curriculum development initiative and responsibility as co-chair of the accreditation self-study process. Michael's commitment to his students' holistic development exemplifies the very best of Good Counsel's mission as a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School to inspire students to excel, serve, and love.



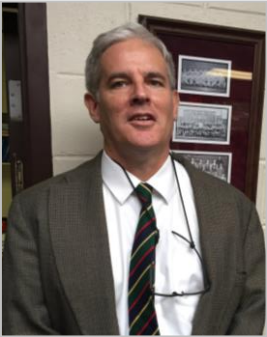
**Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Thomas Kramer**

A graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, Thomas Kramer returned to his alma mater last year and has already made a significant impact on the school community. Tom's zeal for music has proven contagious in his role as a music teacher and director of the marching band. Under his leadership, the marching band has expanded to its largest size in school history. Tom's vision for the program has included the creation of several signature songs and routines, which have quickly caught on as traditions for the ensemble. With his initiative and support, Good Counsel has added a team of majorettes who perform alongside the marching band both in the stands and on the field. Tom has proven himself in a very short time to be a quick study and team player, filling in for colleagues when needed both in the classroom and as technical support in the performing arts. Additionally, Tom has taken on responsibility for coordinating the annual music trip, arranging for the Good Counsel ensembles to perform at Carnegie Hall last spring. Our Lady of Good Counsel High School is truly blessed to have Tom as a member of our community.



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**St. Anselm's Abbey School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Paul Commins**



Now in his 16th year at St. Anselm's, Paul Commins is as versatile an educator as one could imagine--teaching Algebra II, AP Statistics, and AP Economics while also serving as the 9th grade faculty lead, morning bus driver, and middle school "A" basketball coach, where recently his teams won back-to-back-to-back PVAC championships. Paul's humility and exemplary work habits fit in well at his Benedictine school. A graduate of Grinnell College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics while playing on the basketball team, and the University of Minnesota, where he earned a Master of Science in Statistics, Paul's hobbies include crossword puzzles and music, and he is a huge Nats fan. Prior to joining the teaching ranks in 2003, worked in private industry for fifteen years as a quality control engineer, statistician, and economic analyst. Of his many gifts as an educator, it is perhaps Paul's willingness to meet his students anywhere and at any time of day to provide them additional instruction or an 11th hour review session that most sets him apart.



**St. Anselm's Abbey School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Kyle Bellows**

Kyle Bellows perfectly embodies the "Jack of all trades" with the exception that he has pretty well mastered just about every job he has been asked to take on at St. Anselm's. Three years ago, he was hired as both an Arabic and French teacher. The following year he stepped up to fill an unexpected vacancy as coach of the varsity soccer team, and shortly thereafter, he accepted an offer to add associate director of admissions to his growing list of responsibilities. Despite the variety of directions in which his days take him, Kyle continues to be the dedicated and caring teacher on whom his students rely for guidance, inspiration, and friendship. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Arts in History at Vassar College and an Master of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies from The University of Chicago, taught English in Jordan while in the Peace Corps, and loves playing soccer, reading, and cooking.



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St. John's College High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Chenelle Bruce

Chenelle Bruce has committed her life to Lasallian education. After attending Manhattan College, she served as a Lasallian volunteer; an organization facilitated through the network of De La Salle Christian Brothers, and then joined the math department at SJC. During her teaching career, Ms. Bruce has touched the hearts and minds of, quite literally, over one thousand students. She is truly devoted to connecting with each of her students, and she is committed to their personal and intellectual development. Ms. Bruce works tirelessly, before, during and after school, with a student population that must give maximum effort to grasp mathematical concepts, and she does so with patience and care. Her work with students to help them understand the fundamentals of geometry and algebra II is absolutely driven by love because of the effort she receives in return. Ms. Bruce has worked with numerous student organizations in her time at the school and is a member of Signum Fidei, the mission committee at SJC. Perhaps most significant is Ms. Bruce's commitment to Christian service and retreats within and outside the school community. She is a model for her colleagues and an inspiration to her students.



St. John's College High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Cristina Paluch

Cristina Paluch joined the faculty at St. John's College High School after receiving her undergraduate degree from Villanova University and graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She made an immediate impact on students because of her high standards and highly effective, structured planning. Quickly moving into honors instruction because of her ability to glean the most from her students, she helps students cultivate their passion for critical inquiry and their writing skills by process-driven, student-centered projects and work. Her methodical and prudent instruction helps students to focus on mastery of literary analysis. Her own passion and appreciation for great works and unique perspectives fuels her students. She is also a moderator of the school yearbook and has been committed to students' faith development by her support of the school's retreat program and service. Ms. Paluch is connective with her colleagues and collaborative in her approach. As she strives to improve, those around her cannot help but become more effective in the classroom. The students and faculty at SJC are fortunate to have Ms. Paluch as a part of the community.



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**St. Mary's Ryken High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Luke Young**



Luke Young is a member of the Theology department and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum in Rome. Mr. Young is also the moderator of SMR's Student Government Association. Over the nine years he has been a faculty member, Luke has been a positive influence on the students he teaches as they are searching for the truth during their high school years. Through Social Justice and Morality classes, Luke brings students closer to God by providing

them tools to stay morally grounded as they make their personal path in the world. Mr. Young exemplifies the Xaverian value of "Compassion" by being passionate about the things God is passionate. His department chair states, "Through the coherence of what Luke teaches in the classroom with his personal witness, student's lives are changed by authentically wrestling with the 'big' issues of being human." Nothing is more important than serving God through dedication to the pursuit of one's vocation.

**St. Mary's Ryken High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Bryan Kerns**



Bryan Kerns graduated from Christopher Newport University with a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience. He currently teaches Conceptual Physics to freshmen and Medical Interventions to juniors and seniors, as part of the Project Lead the Way Biomedical science program. Mr. Kerns is very involved in the SMR community, serving as an assistant football coach, summer camp instructor and a teacher in the freshmen summer program. One of the student-athletes at SMR said, "He has high expectations

and holds us accountable for our actions. He leads by example and his goal is to mold us into good men, not just on the field, but in life as well." A parent states, "Mr. Kerns is very energetic and positive. My son still talks about him and all that he learned in summer camp." Mr. Kerns epitomizes the Xaverian value of "Zeal" in his love for learning and transferring that zeal of learning to the young adults he impacts in the classroom and on the field.



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**Saint Vincent Pallotti High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Emilie Shipman**



Emilie Shipman graduated from Pallotti in 1968, the first of four siblings to graduate from our school. She returned four years later in 1972 to begin teaching French. For the last 47 years, she has taught with passion, enthusiasm, and rigor. Emilie has taught and continues to teach every level from French I to AP French. This includes using differentiated instruction to teach standard and honors level students in the same classroom, meaning that she can have as many as seven lessons plans to prepare each day. Additionally, Emilie has been a leader in our school community. She has served as the language department chair for many years, has twice served as co-chair of our re-accreditation committee, and has served on several important search committees, including for head of school. In recent years, she received ESL training and has worked with our international students who need additional instruction in English. Emilie is a model of professionalism in everything that she does. Her kind and gentle manner has made her one of the most beloved teachers at Pallotti for both colleagues and students alike. Pallotti is extraordinarily blessed to have a teacher of her skill, commitment, experience, and faith.

**Saint Vincent Pallotti High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Clair Gilbert**



Clair Gilbert is in her second year at Pallotti and teaches honors and standard Introduction to Literature & Composition. She began under very challenging circumstances last year when she took over for a teacher who unexpectedly resigned after the first quarter. Clair was tasked with stepping in and teaching all 121 freshman in English with very little time to prepare. Even in the first few weeks, it was clear that we had a special teacher. Students were engaged and excited about English class and were producing high quality work. Her classroom management was excellent, and she had success with students who were proving difficult for other teachers. Several of her colleagues began calling her “the freshman whisperer.” Clair has creative, well-designed lessons that get students engaged and interested in what they are reading and writing. Her excellence in the classroom has been recognized by nearly everyone in the school. Clair has also been willing to take on extra duties outside the classroom. By the spring of last year, the administration already had such confidence in her that she was asked to take over as moderator of the National Honor Society. She is also serving as a freshman class moderator. Pallotti is blessed to have such a talented young educator.



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Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Veteran Teacher of the Year: Holly Zindulis

For Holly, teaching is not a job, but a calling. She loves to share the books she cherishes with students whose promise and passion continually inspire her. In class discussions of literature, Holly challenges her students, and in their best discussions, they challenge her too; to form a deeper understanding of our world, to think critically about our beliefs and assumptions, and to express complex ideas with clarity and grace. She particularly enjoys helping her students become better writers and gain confidence in their ability to write well. A Sacred Heart alumna, she is grateful to have attended Stuart Country Day and was delighted to return to the Network as a Sacred Heart educator, first as an English teacher at Woodlands Academy and since 2011 at Stone Ridge. In addition to teaching ninth and eleventh grade English classes, she has also served as senior class dean and chaperones the Stone Ridge service trip with the Appalachia Service Project. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, running along the Potomac, and hiking the backcountry.



Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Novice Teacher of the Year: Dr. Jeanne Downey-Vanover

In addition to her role as Assistant Head of Upper School, Dr. Downey-Vanover also serves as the chair of World Languages Department. At Stone Ridge, Jeanne brings with her three decades of experience as an educational innovator and leader. Her passion for the art of teaching is evident in her classroom, in her interactions with fellow educators, and in her involvement in professional education organizations. She is a lifelong learner, a promoter of international mindedness, a servant leader, and a welcome addition to the Upper School leadership team. Jeanne earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language at West Chester University, a Master's Degree in Spanish Language and Literature, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics at University of Maryland. Languages are her passion, especially music: the universal language. On the weekends, she serves as Director of Music Ministry for Youth at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her family, travel, listen to music, learn something new, walk, and go to Zumba.