



Catholic Schools
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October 25, 2019

The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office congratulates the 2019 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 25, 2019. 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.

2019 High School Teachers of the Year

Archbishop Carroll High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:

Sonya Wilson



Sonya Wilson joined the Archbishop Carroll Community in 2004. In her 15 years, she has become a well-known and well-respected member of our faculty who is appreciated by colleagues, staff, students and parents as one who truly lives out the school's mission. Ms. Wilson has taught grades 9 through 12 during her time at Archbishop Carroll, including Business and Technology, Entrepreneurship, Street Law, and Freshman College Seminar courses. Her success lies in her unique ability to challenge students to rise to their potential, mentally, physically, and spiritually. Ms. Wilson is always working passionately to help students gain the skills they need and use the gifts they have to not only help them graduate from high school and college, but also to be good Christians. She is unafraid to share her faith journey with anyone she comes in contact with, especially if it can have an impact on their trajectory. Sonya is a person of dedication, faith, and has a true joy of teaching.

Archbishop Carroll High School Novice Teacher of the Year:

Anuilagi Togia



Anuilagi (Lagi) Togia has made a profound impact in the lives of all of her students and has been a phenomenal asset to the Archbishop Carroll community. Ms. Togia began teaching at Archbishop Carroll in 2017. Despite being new to the ACHS family, she quickly became an integral part of the fabric of our beloved community. As a member of the English Department, she models academic excellence for her students through her continuous personal and professional growth and development. Ms. Togia is always thoughtful, supportive, and cares deeply about others. She inspires many through her dedication to the mission of our school and her enthusiastic and compassionate teaching style. Many students have shared that Ms. Togia has imparted upon them her love for reading and writing as a way to express their feelings about the world around them.



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The Academy of the Holy Cross Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Dr. Maureen Morris

Our Veteran Teacher of the Year, Dr. Maureen Morris, joined the faculty of the Academy of the Holy Cross in 2007 and later became the Department Chair of our History and Social Studies Department. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Law and Society from Hood College and a Ph.D. in Economics from American University in Washington DC. Currently, she teaches AP Human Geography, Honors Global Economics, DC Microeconomics, and Constitutional Law. During her tenure at the Academy of the Holy Cross, Dr. Morris has set an unwavering academic standard that has motivated our students to achieve a high level of excellence. Always up to date on the ever-changing best practices, Dr. Morris instills in her students a genuine interest and passion for learning. According to Dr. Morris, “Curiosity is the key – I am a curious person and am always looking for something new to learn – I try to foster curiosity in my students, because if you are curious, you will be a lifelong learner.” Her utilization of several different instructional methods and assessments, paired with her commitment to lifelong learning and natural, collaborative demeanor, make it a pleasure and joy to have Dr. Morris as a part of our faculty.



The Academy of the Holy Cross Novice Teacher of the Year:
Alison Simon

Our Novice Teacher of the Year, Alison Simon, joined the Academy of the Holy Cross in 2017. Ms. Simon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology with a concentration in Neurobiology and Behavior and a second concentration in Medieval Studies from Cornell University. She also holds a Master of Chemical and Life Sciences degree from The University of Maryland. Since her arrival, Ms. Simon’s enthusiasm about science as well as empowering girls has been evident. She always encourages her students’ curiosity as well as introspection in an effort to promote meaningful work. According to Ms. Simon, “Building trust with students is a key element in my approach. I encourage students to be themselves to discern their own individual passion for learning”. As our Science Department Chair, Ms. Simon is dedicated to developing innovative teaching practices and presentations that prepare our students for college as well as make them aware of science career opportunities. Her philosophy of developing both academically and spiritually definitely coincides with our goal of developing women of courage, compassion, and scholarship. The Academy of the Holy Cross is pleased that Ms. Simon is a part of our community.



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Bishop McNamara High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Peter Sanneman



Peter Sanneman earned a B.A. in Theology, Philosophy, and Psychology from Fordham University, served as a Jesuit Volunteer on the Rosebud Native American Reservation for a year, and is now in his seventh year in Campus Ministry at BMHS. In addition to coordinating school retreats and liturgies, teaching and facilitating the Peer Ministry program, and directing the McNamara Emerging Leadership Training (MELT) conference, he has taught philosophy classes, created a summer school hybrid/online theology curriculum, and served individual students for two years as a mental health therapist through a counseling internship. He recently completed his M.S. in pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling through Loyola University Maryland, is a Nationally Certified Counselor, and is a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor in the state of Maryland.

Bishop McNamara High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Megan Judd



Megan Judd is originally from South Carolina and received a Bachelor's of Science in Marine Biology from the Honors College at College of Charleston. She is a graduate from the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Teaching Fellows program, which is administered by the University of Notre Dame, and taught in Los Angeles while earning her Master's in Education. In her third year teaching Biology and AP Biology at Bishop McNamara High School, Megan said, "I enjoy working at Bishop McNamara because of the amazing school community, especially the students. It's an honor to guide them to question, discover, and explore the life that surrounds us."



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Connelly School of the Holy Child Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Elsbeth Fager



Elsbeth Fager joined the Connelly School of the Holy Child 10 years ago as a music teacher and is now the Director of Visual and Performing Arts. She teaches music and directs the Middle and Upper School Musicals. She is an accomplished musician and classroom music teacher. Ms. Fager embodies the school's mission to embrace the uniqueness of each student individually and provide a joyful learning environment where student's talents can be nurtured. Ms. Fager encourages all students to participate in the arts from offering afterschool classes, providing opportunities to perform in the community, bringing professional musicians to mentor and support her students development, and to use their gifts to serve others. Her unique vision inspired sensory free performances for children with disabilities. She is an innovative leader who sees the best in her students and strives to inspire creativity and leadership in every young women. During the summer, she teaches music in Italy and performs in the Piemonte and Liguria regions. She is a student and staff member of the Galway Flute Festival in Weggis, Switzerland and a member of DC Flutes Ensemble.

Connelly School of the Holy Child Novice Teacher of the Year:
Alex Barr



Over the past year, Alex Barr has brought his passion for teaching social studies and his commitment to Catholic education to Connelly School of the Holy Child. Alex had his first exposure to Catholic education while attending the University of Notre Dame where he earned his Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Economics and American Studies, focusing primarily on American Indian history. He continued his education by working on his Master of Education at Creighton University as part of the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps where he concurrently taught history and religion at St. Augustine Indian Mission on the Winnebago American Indian Reservation in northeast Nebraska. Alex brings that wealth of experience to the students at Connelly School of the Holy Child. He challenges his students to think critically about the world around them, calling them to act with justice in all of their endeavors. In addition to his work teaching at Holy Child, Alex coaches middle school basketball, volunteers for service and attends many of the retreats through Campus Ministry. Alex's desire for academic excellence and his commitment to spiritual growth align with Holy Child's motto of "Actions not Words" and make him an excellent choice for The Archdiocese Novice Teacher of the Year.



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Dematha Catholic High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Jim Roper



Jim Roper's distinguished career at DeMatha began in 1982. He is currently Director of Bands at DeMatha and has taught every level of instrumental music, was department chair for many years, and was the founder of the choral program which he directed for many years. Jim is celebrated by conductors and band directors at other schools and dedicates his time as an adjudicator and guest conductor. His own students love his sense of humor and appreciate his complete devotion to his craft. Seniors remark about him in their exit interviews that he "is a great role model" and "He never let me settle for being average." Jim's devotion to the school and his students has led him to oversee fundraising, travel experiences, and the highest levels of competition for his students. He is known too for his generosity in inviting other conductors to work with his bands. Innumerable students have said what a graduating senior observed last year, "I would not be where I am without Mr. Roper's guidance." DeMatha wouldn't be where we are without Jim Roper.



DeMatha Catholic High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Richard Blorstad

Rich Blorstad is a 2010 graduate of DeMatha where he was an outstanding student who participated in crew and chorus with equal enthusiasm and expertise. He graduated from UMBC in 2014 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and in 2017 with his masters in Mechanical Engineering with a biomechanics specialty. Rich had been coaching crew with us since his graduation from DeMatha and he seamlessly fit in teaching courses as varied as Foundations of Engineering, Advanced Robotics, AP Computer Principles and Algebra 2. He still coaches and sings in the alumni chorus. Rich's students said, "He is a great teacher and someone who is just really great to be around" and "Mr. Blorstad has inspired me and pushed me to think in his engineering and robotics classes. He has shown me ways to think that I never would have seen."



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Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Christopher Lesesne



Christopher Lesesne has been at Don Bosco Cristo Rey since 2013. He has served as the Athletic Director and has taught Health classes to sophomores and had taught physical education to our freshmen and juniors. Mr. Lesesne is someone who lives out our Salesian charism and is a great role model for the entire school community. He has also built strong and positive rapport with many of our students and is deeply committed to seeing them succeed. Over the years, through our athletic program, Mr. Lesesne has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have access to different sports offerings and opportunities. He constantly promotes students' academic, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. This year in addition to overseeing our athletic program, Mr. Lesesne is the current girls volleyball coach and will be the girls basketball coach. Mr. Lesesne also eagerly helps his other colleagues whenever needed, consistently going above and beyond his assigned duties. It's clear through his daily actions, positivity, motivation, and personal drive that Mr. Lesesne continues to live out our school motto, "Be Who You Are and Be It Well" – and in doing so, encourages others to do the same!

Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Diomar Torres



Diomar Torres has been a member of the Don Bosco Cristo Rey faculty for one year, and she has already begun making a difference in our students' learning. Mrs. Torres has brought with her a whole slew of strategies and structures to help our students succeed. She differentiates her lessons and really works with all students to achieve high levels of Spanish comprehension and expression. Furthermore, Mrs. Torres has embraced the Salesian charism and understands that "education is a matter of the heart." Through her interactions with students, she ensures they have the proper resources to be successful and reminds them that she will not give up on them. She constantly looks for ways to continue to become a better teacher and is open to feedback and professional growth. Mrs. Torres also infuses technology into her lessons to make them more engaging and effective for students. This school year she is teaching different levels of Spanish, including Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, and Latin Language & Culture. Mrs. Torres is also the Junior Class Moderator.



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Elizabeth Seton High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Rebecca Taylor

Since 2001, Rebecca “Becky” Taylor has been a teacher and Director of the Bayley program at Elizabeth Seton High School, a program designed for students to receive enhanced academic support to help compensate for organizational issues or minor learning differences. Mrs. Taylor’s students praise her for being a “guiding light,” not only for providing them with academic support and teaching them necessary organizational skills, but also for encouraging them to believe in themselves. While she is applauded for using many creative methods to engage students in learning the content of their various subjects, above all, she is known for her kindness and compassion, as an educator who empowers young women to bear responsibility, to develop a strong work ethic and to seek help when needed. Often, you will also see Mrs. Taylor behind a camera lens, taking photographs of our students at their many extracurricular events, as she is also the moderator for Seton’s Yearbook. You can also find her down on the fields with her two children, supporting Seton’s softball team. Mrs. Taylor holds a BS in Elementary Education from Salisbury State University and an MA in Elementary Education from Bowie State University.



Elizabeth Seton High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Kathleen O'Meara

After graduating from St. Joseph’s University in 2016 with a BA in History and a BS in Secondary Education, Kathleen “Kasey” O’Meara began teaching in the Social Studies Department at Elizabeth Seton High School, teaching AP United States History, Honors United States History, AP Psychology and Introduction to Psychology. She has completed Goucher’s Summer Institute for AP Psychology and Montgomery College’s program for AP U.S. History. Ms. O’Meara’s students appreciate her teaching methods that make history interesting and fun. Ms. O’Meara is a well-respected colleague, and serves as a mentor for new teachers and has been elected the faculty representative. As Seton Alumnae and currently the Senior Class Moderator, having graduated from Elizabeth Seton High School in 2012, her students appreciate her perspective, sage advice and leadership.



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Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Kelli Smith

Kelli Smith's passion for art began early with visits to the Detroit Institute of Art with her father. Later in college, she combined her love of art and architecture with a double major in Art History and Urban Planning at the University of Maryland. A few years after graduation, she moved to California to be a "full-time artist." Returning to the East Coast, she found her calling when she served as a museum tour guide for the Arlington County Recreation Department. In the fall of 1997 Kelli joined the Fine Arts Department at Visitation. Kelli sees her goal as "empowering young women to make a difference." She sees first-hand how the arts make girls "more confident" and nurture a "creative way of thinking." To advance her own education, Kelli earned a masters in art education from the Corcoran School of Art. Always an advocate for student achievement, Kelli mounts an Annual Art Show, juried by professional artists and some faculty. Six years ago she organized the All Catholic Schools Art Show held on campus. Above all else, she values her connection with her students. From organizing the annual freshman trip to the National Gallery of Art, to writing college recommendations, to hiring alumnae to assist in the Art Studio, Kelli creates an inclusive environment for all.



Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Daniel Petri

When San Francisco Bay Area native, Daniel Petri, moved to Washington, D.C. eight years ago, he knew he was flying into the "eye of the storm" and the perfect place to teach government, politics, and history. Since then he has completed coursework for a doctorate in Political Science, taught undergraduate courses, and manages the congressional internship program, all at Catholic University. Now in his third year in the History Department at Georgetown Visitation, Daniel has earned a reputation as a passionate advocate for democracy and the electoral process and as a teacher who makes learning fun and exciting. To give students an "up close and personal" experience, he held an evening "Election Watch Party" during the 2018 mid-term elections where students learned how to assess election returns and how to evaluate cable news coverage. Last year his AP Government class attended a taping of "Meet the Press" and met host Chuck Todd and will do so again this year. Daniel cites collaborative colleagues and motivated students as highlights of his career so far at Visitation where he teaches AP Government, AP Comparative Politics, and new this year, the freshman Global Patterns course. His long-term goal for students is "to help set their direction to use their talents to make the change they want to see" in our increasingly polarized electorate.



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Gonzaga College High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Ariel Laguilles



Señor Ariel Laguilles, Chair of the Modern Language Department and member of the class of 1996, has been teaching Spanish at Gonzaga since 2004. Ariel is a leader in the community in and out of the classroom. Invested in his own faith formation and in Ignatian spirituality, Ariel has completed both the Magis program and the Ignatian Leadership Seminars. A few years ago, he developed a unique elective class that allows students to reflect on their high school experience, explores Ignatian Spirituality and Spanish culture, and culminates in a week-long pilgrimage walking the final 100 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago. This summer, Ariel was the first person to run the 408 mile-long Camino Ignaciano (Spain), doing so in a record-setting 8 days, 12 hours, and 45 minutes! He is Gonzaga's Assistant Cross Country coach and was previously Gonzaga's head Tennis coach, where he led the team to seven WCAC tennis championships and was named Washington Post All Met Coach of the Year in 2008. Recently, Ariel and his wife Marissa welcomed their son, Kai, to the world!



Gonzaga College High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Carl Cardozo

Mr. Carl Cardozo arrived at Gonzaga in the fall of 2016 as a Classics and History teacher. Since then, he has been instrumental in reviving the Classical Languages program at Gonzaga, as measured by increased enrollment and superior student performance on national assessments. In addition, Carl moderates the fencing club, is co-producer of the One-Act Play Festival and is coach of the Model United Nations team. Carl is also very active in Gonzaga's Christian service and retreat programs. He holds a BA in Classics and History from St. Joseph's University, and a Masters in Classics from University of Chicago. Carl's affinity for film and media, prompted the creation of a new course at Gonzaga titled War and Politics: A Film Study, which offers an examination of the transition of the United States from a regional to a world power through the lens of film. Lastly, Carl is an avid comic book reader and collector!



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Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Maryellen Morrissey

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School proudly recognizes Maryellen Morrissey as the 2019 Veteran Teacher of the Year. During her twelve years of service with Good Counsel, Maryellen has proven herself an unfailingly positive and enthusiastic presence in and out of the classroom. Maryellen's commitment to her students is clearly evident to all who have the privilege of observing her interactions with students. The embodiment of the Xaverian Brothers values of Compassion and Zeal, Maryellen can usually be found tutoring students during her planning period and is often heard offering words of encouragement to current and past students alike. In the classroom, Maryellen utilizes hands-on strategies to authentically engage students in Physics and Civil Engineering. Her focus on how language helps shape student understanding of science serves as a perfect example of her ongoing commitment to personal and professional development. Beyond the classroom, Maryellen has contributed her diverse array of talents as moderator of the Knitting Club, as guest presenter for the St. Mary's Scholars Program, and has shared her faith as a Eucharistic Minister at Mass. Our Lady of Good Counsel High School is truly blessed to honor Maryellen as this year's Veteran Teacher of the Year.



Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
William Redmond

A graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, William Redmond returned to his alma mater two years ago and has already made a significant impact on students and on the community. In the classroom, Will challenges students to think critically about the world and their place in it. In Will's Social Studies classes, students are encouraged to not only construct their own arguments but are also taught how to listen to those with different perspectives as well. During his short tenure with Good Counsel, Will has demonstrated a willingness and ability to teach a variety of classes including Psychology, AP Human Geography, and United States History. To each class, Will brings his unique blend of content knowledge, enthusiasm, and humor. Outside of the school day, Will has immersed himself in school life and mission as one of the coaches of the Speech and Debate Team, chaperone of the junior retreat, and faculty representative of the senior class. Through his passion for teaching and sincere commitment to his students, Will embodies the best of what it means to be an educator in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers and is well deserving of the honor of Novice Teacher of the Year.



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St. Anselm's Abbey School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Nancy Cholis



An English teacher extraordinaire and the quintessential “writer whisperer,” Nancy Cholis has graced the hallways and classrooms of St. Anselm’s for two-plus decades. Over that time, hundreds of 12th grade Abbey boys have Mrs. Cholis to thank for the superb guidance, unparalleled time on task, and Job-like patience she has provided them in helping to transform the kernel of a good idea into what invariably has become a well-polished, cogent, and “jumps off the page” college essay. Known for going above and beyond in all that she does, Nancy, who holds a B.A. from Saint Mary’s College (Indiana) and an M.A. from Georgetown and who cites Yeats, Heaney, Joyce, Barry, Gaines, and the Bard as among her favorite authors to teach, continues to challenge herself by regularly introducing new texts into her provocative elective courses, two of which are “Heroes, Rebels, and Exiles” and “The Effects of War on Man.” Previous teaching stints for her have included Connelly School of the Holy Child (where she also was the English chair) and Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in New Jersey. Having never met a stranger and one who always sees the glass as half-full, Nancy enjoys golf, gardening, and, in her words, “traveling anywhere.”



St. Anselm's Abbey School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Jessie Martin

Since arriving at St. Anselm’s just a little over a year ago, Jessie Martin has already established herself as a highly respected teacher, a supportive colleague, and a major contributor to the life and community of our school. Teaching AP and 9th Grade Chemistry, she sees a significant number of our high school students moving through her lab every day and because of her sensitivity and engagement with those boys, she has been an invaluable source of insights into the wellbeing of our students. The rising enrollment in AP Chemistry and her students’ success in the course are testaments to her talents and enthusiasm as a teacher and we consider ourselves very blessed that she has begun what will clearly be an impressive career in education within our walls. Jessie grew up locally in Rockville, MD, and graduated from Gettysburg College in 2017 where she received a BA in Chemistry as well as her secondary education certification. She interned for the Smithsonian Science Education Center during the summer of 2016 and in the education department of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in the summer of 2017.



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St. John's College High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Mary McAndrews

Over Mary's 4 years at St. John's, she has brought a wealth of knowledge and support to our students, faculty and community. As our freshman Benilde teacher, Mary welcomes, supports and challenges students to rise to their full potential. Throughout the process of transitioning to high school, Mary's compassionate approach is seen and felt daily in her classroom. Mary's expertise is rooted in her deep knowledge of dyslexia, and her ability to effectively implement multisensory instruction, particularly through the lens of literacy. Through skill building, self-advocacy/awareness, supplementing content, and constant one on one and group encouragement, Mary's students develop the tools and confidence necessary to be successful in a college preparatory environment. Mary's hard work and patience is felt day in and day out by all that she encounters.



St. John's College High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Shane Cronin

Over the last 3 years, Shane has brought an energy and excitement to his students and our school community. Shane's positive, interactive and hands-on approach is experienced daily. The enthusiasm that he exudes is contagious and it inevitably promotes passion and interest within his classroom. Shane's ability to teach introductory freshman courses, through upper level advanced placement, further portrays his versatile strengths within the classroom. When Shane isn't conducting experiments with our students, he is breakdancing in our school pep rallies and choreographing for our theatre program.



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St. Mary's Ryken High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Tessa Silvestro

Ms. Tessa Silvestro is a member of the fine arts department and holds a master's degree from Roosevelt University. She joined the St. Mary's Ryken community in the fall of 2010. As a dedicated theatre teacher, Ms. Silvestro directs two major productions a year (drama and musical), provides audio and visual support for the entire St. Mary's Ryken community for various events including community events, grandparent's day, all-school Masses, etc. and actively participates in and supports community theatre in the southern Maryland region. Ms. Silvestro dedicates a multitude of hours to provide students a space for creative expression and an opportunity to express themselves through the performing arts. According to the Fine Arts Department Chair, "Ms. Silvestro motivates theatre students to perform outside of their comfort zone. For example, students will share the roll they wish to play in a particular show, and Ms. Silvestro will encourage them to play a different roll that will challenge the students and help them to grow in their craft. Ms. Silvestro has an uncanny ability to see something in students that says they can tackle the roll effectively, and the students must trust that she will teach them how to be successful in that character."



St. Mary's Ryken High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
James Parker

Mr. James Parker has a master's degree in Orchestral Conducting and is Director of Band and Orchestra at St. Mary's Ryken. Mr. Parker is a very active member of the SMR community having created and expanded programs to include a pep band, and the Knights Musical Mentors (KMM). In its inaugural year, KMM is a community-based program open to students in 7th and 8th grade who are currently taking band/orchestra at their school or lessons outside of school. Led by Mr. Parker, with help from SMR band students, the younger students are mentored and participate in the SMR fine arts winter concert. Mr. Parker exemplifies the Xaverian charism of trust in and out of his classroom. One student noted, "I can always trust Mr. Parker to be there when I don't understand a concept in AP Music Theory, or when I just need a laugh. He's a funny guy!" In the same manner, his department chair said, "Mr. Parker is taking students to new levels and constantly challenging."



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Saint Vincent Pallotti High School Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Tim Martin

Mr. Martin is currently in his 7th year at Pallotti. He teaches, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and Food Chemistry. Mr. Martin also teaches summer enrichment classes to provisionally accepted students and helps the administration evaluate their suitability as Pallotti students. He is well-appreciated by students who note his clear teaching style as well as his nearly unflappable temperament. An avid chef himself, Mr. Martin is the creator and teacher of one of the most popular elective courses at Pallotti: Food Chemistry. Students learn the chemistry behind cooking and get to engage in some delicious labs along the way. During his time at Pallotti he has coached the tennis team and moderated the Ping Pong Club. He currently serves as the Junior class moderator where he has consistently inspired the juniors to outperform the other classes in competitions. Thanks in large part to Mr. Martin's leadership, the juniors not only defeated the seniors to win the coveted Pallotti Spirit Cup at the beginning of this year, but also were the hands-down winners in our recent food drive competition to support a local parish food pantry. Mr. Martin also helps coach the Pallotti robotics team. Pallotti is truly grateful for Mr. Martin's skill as a teacher and all the many ways that he makes our school a better place.



Saint Vincent Pallotti High School Novice Teacher of the Year:
Christine Long

Ms. Long is currently in her 3rd year at Pallotti. She teaches visual art classes to both our general student population and to students in the Pallotti Arts Academy, and she is the chair of the Visual Arts Department. Ms. Long has taught a wide variety of courses including Fundamentals of Art, Painting I & II, Sculpture, Calligraphy, Digital Photography, and Art Atelier I-III. She is a vibrant, creative, and organized teacher whom students love. Ms. Long's special emphasis on making sure that student art work is prominently displayed all around the school helps students take pride in their work and encourages them to always give their best effort. She does an excellent job in helping students to appreciate growth in their abilities and not just to focus on the end product of their work. Her colleagues appreciate her not only for her professionalism and high standards, but also for her positivity and enthusiastic spirit. Outside the classroom, she moderates the Art Club and helps organize and chaperone the school's annual international trips. Pallotti is very blessed to have Ms. Long as a member of our community.



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Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Veteran Teacher of the Year:
Marisela Montiel-Bodelle

Marisela was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico: The city of Mariachis and Eternal Spring. She majored in History at the University of Guadalajara, where she taught Spanish Linguistics as a second language for ten years. Then, Marisela taught both subjects at the middle and high school levels in her hometown at the Colegio Quinet and Colegio Tlaquepaque. Marisela began teaching Spanish at the Centro de Estudios para Extranjeros at the University of Guadalajara in the division dedicated to foreign students who came to study the language. There, she served as head of the Spanish program for one year as well. She also taught Jesuits who came from Syracuse, NY, at the Colegio Jesuita. After meeting her husband in Guadalajara, they moved to Washington, DC, in 1998. Marisela started looking for a teaching position a year later, which is how she found a home at Stone Ridge. After teaching for seven years in the middle school, she moved to the Upper School, and has been here ever since. Marisela's passion for teaching Spanish at Stone Ridge resides in being in front of a group of hungry and eager minds. Not only are the students interested in learning the language, but they have a desire to open their own borders and learn about other places, cultures, and people. This drives a dynamic interaction that is rewarding for both students and herself.



Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Novice Teacher of the Year:
Dr. Katharina Matro

Katharina Matro teaches World History and Economics at the Upper School of Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. She holds a PhD in Eastern European History from Stanford University, an MA in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University, and a BA in History from Amherst College. Katharina feels lucky that at Stone Ridge she has found a position that lets her combine her training in international economics and her graduate work in history. Both disciplines, she finds, allow students to examine today's world and its challenges with valuable analytical tools. A parent to two small daughters (who are both at Stone Ridge), she is especially excited to work with young women and to accompany them on their way to becoming passionate life-long learners, critical thinkers, beautiful writers, and empathetic students of the past and present. Katharina is originally from Germany, but has lived in the United States for more than 20 years. In her free time, she enjoys reading and writing, traveling, and baking.