



ST. MARY SCHOOL
2023-2024

Meet our Teachers



www.stmarydelaware.org

Our Principal



Eric Pfeifer

We are so excited to welcome our new principal at St. Mary School! Mr. Pfeifer will officially be joining us July 1, and is looking forward to meeting all of our returning and incoming families in the year to come.

Mr. Eric Pfeifer started his teaching career in 2015. He attended The Ohio State University where he received his degree in Italian before moving on to Ohio Dominican University to complete his M.A in Theology. He is finishing up his role as Assistant Principal of Student Services at St. Paul School in Westerville. He has a deep passion for Catholic Education and the forming of disciples of Christ. It is my hope that every child has the opportunity to encounter the True, Good, and Beautiful expressed in our world, to grow in wonder at the things God has done, and be formed in true Charity that is rooted in hospitality and love for others.

He resides in Westerville with his wife (Jazmin) and three children (Charleigh 12, Brody 8 and Asher 5) along with their golden retriever (Piper). In his free time, he enjoys being with his family--especially on vacation!--reading and being attentive to the beautiful things of daily life, playing golf, and setting aside time for moments of silence.

A Letter from Our Principal

Dear St. Mary's Parents and Students,

I am deeply humbled to have the privilege to write this letter of introduction to you as the new Principal of St. Mary's Catholic School. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school passionate about Catholic education, the great roots of our Tradition, and a commitment to wholistic faith formation through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Along with teachers and staff, I will work hard to build upon the formation of our young scholars. My official start date at St. Mary's is July 1st, 2023. However, I will be meeting with faculty and preparing for next school year during the month of June. Father Garland, Emily Wu, and staff have been tirelessly at work preparing for a successful opening to the school year. I am eager to join the team and support their efforts.

Before I share with you my call to education it is important for you to know that my identity resides in my relationship to Christ and in my vocation to marriage. The Lord has prepared for me the greatest of wives, Jazmin, and we have been growing together in holiness for the last 14 years. We have been blessed with three children, Charleigh (12), Brody (soon to be 9), and Asher (5) and are humbled the Lord has entrusted their souls to our care. My life revolves around my family and they have shaped me in becoming the man I am today. Being a family man is extremely important to me and I do not believe I could be a successful principal without my relationship with them. Over time it is my hope you will get to meet and know them.

These last eight years I have been blessed with the opportunity to be an educator and administrator at my alma mater, St. Paul Catholic School. I am very thankful for my time there as an educator. While I was working at St. Paul I encountered a movement focused on recovering our rich Tradition, sharing the Catholic anthropology/worldview, and to prioritize education as forming souls in the culture of our faith.

This encounter sparked a four year journey studying Classical Education and how best to bring our students into contact with the Good, True, and Beautiful One on which everything else depends. One of my favorite passages in Sacred Scripture to articulate this is from 1 Kgs 19:11-13, when Elijah is upon the Mount of the Lord and in all the power, might, and noise of the storms and fires God's presence was not found. Instead it was in the "still small voice." How often we can miss God's presence when we are looking for Him in the noise, distraction and fear of this world. I sometimes feel the modern movement in education can become stuck in the noise.

What Father Garland has embarked upon is a way for us to walk together, to be attentive to the "still small voice" and to respond to God's presence in our daily lives. When we recognize our love for God in these concrete moments we will thirst to know Him more and in knowing Him we will desire to know His works and then communicate His works to others. This is what Classical Education does. It brings the students into sublime moments which inspire them to wonder about the world they live in. This wonder propels them to grow in the Truth, to recognize the Good, and to be drawn to the Beautiful.

Father Garland's intuition has its roots deep in Western thought as Aristotle too believed that the way to knowledge of a thing is from the concrete individual experience up to the abstract knowing of a thing's essence. This approach to knowing is found in the Church's sacramental view of the world. We worship and learn with our senses, as St. Paul says, we see only in reflection, as in a mirror, but there will come a time we see fully face to face (1 Cor 13:12). St. Paul was referencing what Aristotle noticed and what Fr. Garland has recognized. It is the Divine pedagogy, the way in which God leads us to Himself. St. Mary's is recovering this ancient way of knowing and I am elated to have the opportunity to lead the school on this journey.

My initial goals are two-fold: The first is to be accessible to parents and students. Pope Francis points out that a leader should smell like their sheep, and although I view this partnership with the parents in a way of co-workers in the vineyard of our children's lives, I take to heart the guidance of our Holy

Father in that I must be in and around our school. It is my aim to know each child, to be where they are, and to engage with them. I have been deeply influenced by the life of St. John Bosco. His number one solution to help form and shape virtuous living in his students was through proximity. I believe if we are to lead our children we must first model holy living and be worthy of imitation. This cannot happen if we are not present to them.

The second is for our staff to have the support they need to be successful in their task of leading children. When our staff are rested, have a deep prayer life, are well trained, and in a place of peace our children will be most successful. When our staff feel they are not adequately trained, have no time for prayer, and are burdened by things our children will suffer.

St. Mary's will be successful when we have clarity in communication, strong communal bonds and engaged parents and staff.

In closing I truly have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding this journey to St. Mary's. I can say with confidence God, in His "still small voice", was preparing me while at St. Paul and calling me to St. Mary's to continue the works He has planned. I have great hope for our future and I believe the fruits of our labor will be bountiful.

The best way to contact me throughout the summer will be via email at epfeifer1@cdeducation.org. Once I am more settled I will be looking to have some opportunities during the mornings for "coffee talks" where we can come together and share/discuss the future of St. Mary's.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Pfeifer".

Principal

Children's House

Our preschool & pre-kindergarten children in our first Montessori-based Children's House are in wonderful hands this fall!



Emily Wu
CHILDREN'S HOUSE DIRECTOR

Emily Wu has served as the Director of Catechesis and Evangelization at St. Mary's Delaware since 2018, and was the catalyst for our Montessori-based Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) faith formation program.

Emily has a Bachelor's Degree in Humanities and Catholic Culture at Franciscan University of Steubenville. She earned her AMS Montessori Children's House Diploma and Level 1 CGS training while working at a parochial Montessori school in Michigan. She was a Children's House Montessori teacher for five years.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is one of her passions, as it allows the child to develop a deep relationship with Christ by gentle, consistent encounters within a loving community. Emily is currently completing Level 3 (9-12 year old) CGS training, with the hope of becoming a National CGS Formation Leader.

Emily has been married to her husband Andy Wu for 6 years and they live in Columbus, OH.

Elementary School



Maureen DiFrancesco
1ST GRADE



Maggie Lamonde
2ND GRADE



Heather Fletcher
3RD GRADE



Allison Scalfano
4TH GRADE

Middle School



Amanda Hicks



Brian Lower



Nancy Williams



Julie Means



Sheryl Valentine

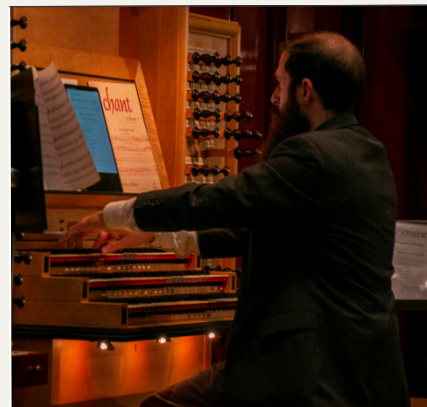
Specials



Kay Carroll
ART



Kathy Savinell
MUSIC



Dr. Jarred Tafaro
MUSIC



Steve Gorman
PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Sheryl Valentine
LATIN

Current Job Openings



**Kindergarten
Educator**

**5th Grade
Educator**

**Intervention
Specialist**

**Children's
House Aide
(x3)**

**Kindergarten
Aide
(Full-Time)**

FAQ's

How was the new principal determined?

The process for hiring our new principal has been shared with faculty, staff, and our families throughout. A job was posted on the Diocese website and a search committee was formed of two teachers, two parents, a Diocese representative, and a parish office representative.

Are all of your teachers licensed?

Yes. All of our teachers are required to be licensed by the Diocese.

What will happen if a teacher is not found for kindergarten or 5th grade before August?

We are considering multiple solutions and are prepared to ensure the education of your children. Please pray for our school as we officially publish job openings and conduct interviews, that Our Lady intercedes on our behalf and brings us mission-minded educators.

What about other school staff?

We are still working on office and facility staff contracts this June. A similar announcement will be made later this summer about school staff at that time.