



3964 Castleman Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63110
(314) 776-7837
school@stmargaretstl.org

July 31, 2024

St. Margaret of Scotland Families:

I hope all of you are enjoying the last couple of weeks this summer. We are hard at work getting the school ready Back to School activities. There is a lot of information in this letter, so please read it carefully. As always feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to seeing you all in August. I will keep you updated on anything else that comes up over the rest of summer break. Have a great rest of your Summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Holley".

Patrick Holley
Principal

In the end, it's the beginning that counts.

2024/2025 Faculty and Staff

Preschool 3	Sr. Marie Nguyen Mr. Joe Lewis Sr. Dona DeMarco
Preschool 4	Mrs. Stacey Hawley Ms. Jessie Ferree
Montessori	Ms. Bridget Dicker Mrs. Carol Haukap
Kindergarten	Mrs. Rita Harvatin Mrs. Megan Kean Mrs. Ann Daugherty Mrs. Susan Schorr
Grade 1	Mrs. Sarah Clark Ms. Michelle Cheatham Mrs. Amy Schreiner TBA
Grade 2	Ms. Bridget Heffernan Ms. Katie Kirner Sr. Mary Jo Kremer
Grade 3	Ms. Adriyanna Salameh Mrs. Megan Biegacki
Grade 4	Mrs. Colleen Joyce Ms. Abby Unverferth Mr. Corey Shorter
Grade 5	Ms. Katie Komos Mrs. Karabeth Peterson Mr. Jesse Gondzur
Grade 6	Mrs. Laura Wells Mrs. Karen Rasure
Grade 7	Ms. Alura Berry Mr. Breon Evans
Grade 8	Ms. Mindy Baker Mr. Mike Pilato
Middle School Aide	Ms. Jesika Kasch

Art	Ms. Sara Loser
Learning Consultant	Mrs. Sarah Redmond
Music	Mrs. Emily Chrostoski
PE	Mr. Jeff Ranek
STREAM	Molly Skiljan
Violin	Ms. Betsey Tullis
Reading Specialist	Mrs. Anjanette Gondzur
Mindfulness	Mrs. Melanie Donovan
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Chistine Stephens
School Secretary	TBA
Coordinator of Inclusion, Diversity, & Equity	Mr. Corey Shorter
Coordinator of Religious Education	Mrs. Gwen Heithaus
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Mary Grace Villmer
Principal	Mr. Patrick Holley

New Faculty & Staff Members

Mary Grace Villmer - I am excited to have Mrs. Villmer join our administrative team as Assistant Principal at St. Margaret of Scotland. She is a lifelong Catholic educator who has worked in many capacities in Catholic schools. She was most recently the Building Principal of All Saints Catholic School in St. Peters, Missouri. Before accepting that position, she served as the Coordinator of Religious Education there as well. She is an experienced classroom teacher holding positions at both Sacred Heart Valley Park Catholic School and John F. Kennedy High School. Mrs. Villmer has a love and passion for Catholic education that will be a great benefit to St. Margaret of Scotland.

Michael Pilato - Please join me in welcoming Mr. Mike Pilato as our new Eighth-Grade Homeroom Teacher and Middle School Theology Teacher. Mr. Pilato has a Master of Arts in Theology from St. Louis University and a Master in Theology studies from Eden Theological Seminary. He also earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Mr. Pilato has spent time teaching at the college level, but felt called to help form younger children. We are very lucky to have someone of his experience working in our middle school.

Adriyanna Salameh – I am excited to reintroduce Ms. Salameh as our new Third-Grade Lead Teacher. Some of you may know Ms. Salameh from her time working aftercare. She has recently graduated from St. Louis University with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and certification in Elementary Education. Ms. Salameh completed both her practicum and student teaching in both Catholic schools and public schools. I am impressed with Ms. Salameh’s commitment to our mission at St. Margaret of Scotland and her ability to form intentionally positive relationships with students through her work in aftercare. I am excited for Ms. Salameh to join our elementary team.

Carol Haukap - I would like to introduce Mrs. Haukap, our new Montessori Classroom Aide. Mrs. Haukap has a wealth of experience in education, most recently teaching middle school at South City Community School and Bethel Luthern School before that. She has also served as the program director of Engage St. Louis - an outreach service that brings human development services to urban youth, children, families, and refugees. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education and a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Communication.

Molly Skiljan – I am also very excited to introduce Mrs. Skiljan who has accepted the role of STREAM Teacher for the next school year. Mrs. Skiljan has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and is certified in Art Education K-12. Her experience ranges from St. Louis Public Schools to - most recently - Little Flower Catholic School. She has also recently earned her Master’s degree in Art Education this past Spring. She has also completed thirty graduate courses in Instructional Technology from the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I am confident that Ms. Skiljan’s experience in project-based learning and interest in instruction technology will be a great asset to our school. I can personally attest that she is excited to begin and grow our STREAM program.

Betsy Tullis – We are very lucky to have Mrs. Tullis join our Fine Arts team as Suzuki Violin/Music Electives Instructor. Mrs. Tullis earned her Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from Utah State University in 2023. She served as a Section Violist at the University of Missouri St. Louis Orchestra and Principal Violist for the Utah State University Orchestra. She is certified to teach Suzuki Violin and has been a private violin and viola

instructor since 2016. Most recently, she has worked as a Teacher's Assistant in the Kirkwood School District. I am very excited to have Mrs. Tullis join our already excellent fine arts team.

Joe Lewis – Finally, I would like to welcome Mr. Lewis to our early childhood team as a new Preschool Assistant Teacher. Mr. Lewis has a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Studies from Harris-Stowe State University and a Missouri Substitute certification. He is coming to us from the Ferguson Florissant School District where he spent time at Bermuda Elementary School and Parker Road Elementary School where he was an Assistant Teacher for the three-year-old program. I was impressed with Mr. Lewis's commitment to the religious mission of our school. I look forward to having his experience and energy in the preschool.

New Programs

Spanish Program Extension

Based on parent survey results and my observations it has become clear that we are in need of extending our Spanish program to our younger grades. Therefore we are partnering with Custom Language Schooling to have a K-8 Spanish program. Children will have Spanish Class once a week K-5 and will have the option of choosing it as an elective in middle school.

STREAM

STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) will be piloted by our new STREAM teacher Mrs. Skiljan. This class will be an additional special class for K-5 and an elective option for middle school students. This is a project-based learning class where students will learn about real-world issues and apply their knowledge to create solutions. I met with Mrs. Skiljan over the summer and am very excited about her ideas. She is excited to create partnerships with school community members and outside organizations to provide the best STREAM experience possible.

Theology of the Body

We are very excited to begin teaching Theology of the Body as part of our religion curriculum this year! Theology of the Body is the name for a series of 129 lectures that St. Pope John Paul II gave in the early 1980s that were then compiled into a book called Theology of the Body. These lectures were teachings about what it means to be human, created in the image and likeness of God. Our Theology of the Body curriculum consists of 9 lessons that are meant to help our students understand that they were created in love by God and that they are called to live in a way that spreads his love throughout the world. Any questions - please contact Gwen Heithaus at gheithaus@stmargaretstl.org.

NWEA Testing

This year, St. Margaret of Scotland will begin the process of phasing out the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in favor of the NWEA standardized test. Please read the separate attached letter for more details.

Important Back-to-School Dates

- **Faculty Meetings - Wednesday-Friday, August 7- 9, 8:00am-3:00pm**
- **Preschool and Kindergarten Back to School Night - Wednesday, August 7, 6:30-8:00pm**
- **Sixth Grade Information Night - Thursday, August 8, 6:30-8:00pm**
- **Packet Day/Open House - Sunday, August 11, 11:00am-1:00pm**
- **First Day of School - Wednesday, August 14**
- **Back to School Night (Grades 6-8) - Wednesday, August 21, 7:00-8:30pm**
- **Back to School Night (Grades 1-5) - Thursday, August 22, 7:00-8:30pm**



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This fall we will begin the transition from the Riverside Iowa test to the NWEA MAP Growth Assessment. As part of an Archdiocesan-wide initiative, we will spend the next two years making this change. The Archdiocese began piloting NWEA during the 2022-2023 school year in 8 schools, and last school year, 26 Archdiocesan elementary schools administered the assessment.

This year every school will be assessing using NWEA and phasing out the Riverside Iowa Test. We will be giving the NWEA Assessment in 2-8 grades starting this school year. In addition, seventh and eighth grade will also take the Riverside Iowa test this year. The 2025-2026 school year will be the last year for the Riverside Iowa Test with only eighth grade participating.

The NWEA MAP Growth Assessment is a benchmark assessment composed of Math, Reading, and Language Usage. The students will take each of these sections 3 times a year during the testing windows. The three testing windows will occur from August 19th- September 13th (Window 1), January 6th- January 31st (Window 2), and April 21st- May 9th (Window 3). While there is greater frequency in the tests, each section of the test lasts roughly 45 minutes and should lead to much less taxing testing experiences for our students.

The NWEA MAP Growth Assessment is computer-adaptive, meaning that the test is dynamic and adjusts the difficulty of questions based on a student's responses. The questions begin at grade level, and as a student gets questions correct or incorrect, the test adapts above or below grade level to find the student's ability level. St. Margaret of Scotland is excited to use this test because of its adaptive nature. Additionally, having multiple data points will allow us to focus more on promoting individual student and class growth, supporting student needs, and getting more frequent feedback on the impact of our instructional practices.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Holley".

Patrick Holley

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