



***St John the Evangelist School***  
10201 Woodland Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902  
(301) 681-7656 fax (301) 681-0745 [www.sjte.org](http://www.sjte.org)



## Staffing Approach

The faculty of St. John the Evangelist School consists of more than 25 full-time and part-time educators. Of this number, we are fortunate to have six religious of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM). We have three administrative staff members who support our school as well as five aides.

St. John the Evangelist School strives to ensure that students receive the best instruction in all subjects with an emphasis in reading and mathematics. The school employs qualified part-time reading and math teachers in addition to the grade-level teachers. Inclusion specialists, computer and technology teachers, and a librarian also help students and faculty in integrating technology into the curriculum.

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## MEET OUR TEACHERS

### **Magrart Durney, Principal**

Mrs. Durney received her BS from Washington Adventist University and her MS from the University of Maryland College. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Notre Dame of Maryland University, and she expects to receive her Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership in the fall of 2016. In addition to her formal course work, Mrs. Durney has attended seminars and learning workshops in effective teaching of common core subjects, teaching students with learning challenges, preparing and administering authentic alternative assessments, use of technology applications in the classroom, International Baccalaureate teaching, student database administration, and safety and security. She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

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### **Marilyn Whitney, Jr. Kindergarten**

Mrs. Whitney graduated from Frostburg State University with a major in Political Science. She became our part-time primary reading and math teacher in 2008 and is currently the director of our junior kindergarten program. Mrs. Whitney has also taught kindergarten and grade 1 library, kindergarten art, and coordinated the school's marketing efforts.

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### **Sister Doreen Willis, I.H.M., Kindergarten**

Sister Doreen, our kindergarten teacher, joined St. John the Evangelist School in 1998. She has been teaching in the primary grades for more than 35 years and taught first grade for 27 years. She has a B.A. in Education with a minor in Special Education from Marywood University and an M.S. in Reading Education from Marywood University. Sister Doreen is also a certified reading specialist.

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### **Mary Elizabeth Benko, First Grade**

Ms. Benko joined our school faculty in 2010 and has worked as a Jr. K aide, as a small group reading and math teacher for 1st and 2nd grade, and as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Currently, she teaches 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Ms. Benko earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Dayton.

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### **Jean Engler, Second Grade**

Mrs. Engler attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduated with a B.S. in Special Education. She began teaching first grade here in the early 1980s and later became the primary grades reading and math teacher. In the mid-

1990s, she returned as a full-time second grade teacher, where she remains today. Mrs. Engler was St. John's Teacher of the Year in 2006 and has taught here for more than 25 years.

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**Christine Calabro, Third Grade**

Mrs. Calabro graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Elementary Education. Certified in Maryland, she taught in Prince George's County, another Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Washington and a private school in Montgomery County before coming here in 2006. She has taught grades 2, 4, and 6 and was a reading resource teacher for Grades K-4. In 2009, Mrs. Calabro was elected St. John's Teacher of the Year.

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**Caitlin McNickle, Fourth Grade**

Ms. McNickle attended Loyola University Maryland where she received her Bachelors of Art in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. She has had student teaching experiences from first grade to fifth grade in schools throughout Baltimore. She is a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Cross. Ms. McNickle joined our faculty in 2015.

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**Anna Davitt, Fifth Grade**

Ms. Davitt attended James Madison University where she received her Bachelors of Science in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies with a minor in Elementary Education. She also attended graduate school at James Madison and received her Master of Arts in Teaching. She has had several student teaching experiences in schools throughout Virginia. Ms. Davitt joined our faculty in 2014. She is the fifth grade homeroom teacher and also teaches sixth grade language arts.

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**Maureen Rossi, Sixth Grade**

Mrs. Rossi attended Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature with minors in both Political Science and Latin. She has taken classes towards her Master of Arts in Teaching from Notre Dame University of Maryland. Mrs. Rossi joined our staff in 2015 after teaching at another Archdiocesan school for six years. She teaches 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th grade math as well as 6th grade social studies, religion and homeroom. She is the coordinator of the safety patrols.

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**Colleen Brookfield, Seventh Grade**

Ms. Brookfield graduated from James Madison University with a B.S. in both Mathematics and Statistics. She worked in Howard County in Special Education. She joined St. John in 2013 and is the 7th grade homeroom and religion teacher, as well as a teacher for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math classes.

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**Emily Pacconi, Eighth Grade**

Ms. Pacconi graduated from John Carroll University with a B.A. in Education with a minor Social Studies and Language Arts. She was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA and moved to the area to work at St. John's in September of 2014. She is the 8th grade homeroom and religion teacher, as well as a 7th and 8th grade language arts teacher.

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**Stephanie Rico, Art**

Mrs. Rico initiated the school's formal art program for grades 4-8 in 1995 and has taught those grades since then. She graduated from the University of Maryland with B.A. degrees in Studio Art and Art History. She also pursued graduate studies while at the University of Maryland. In 1993, she founded Art Horizons. This program is currently taught as an after-school enrichment program at St. John's.

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**Milenka Gutierrez**, Science Grades 5-8 and Computer Science Grades 5-6

Mrs. Gutierrez graduated from University of Maryland with a B.S. in Neurobiology and Physiology. She has worked as a Sunday School teacher, and as a Science and Math tutor, in grades ranging from middle school to college level, for over five years. She is new to St. John's this year, teaching Science to our 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, as well as Computer Science to our 5th and 6th graders.

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**Kelly Burgess**, Resource Teacher

Mrs. Burgess graduated from the University of Dayton in 1990 with a degree in Elementary Education. After 14 years of classroom teaching, she earned her Master's degree in Special Education from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. Currently, she works as a resource teacher in grades 4–8.

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**Claire North**, Resource Teacher

Mrs. North graduated from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) with a B.A. in History and certification in Elementary Education. She received her M.A. in Curriculum from Loyola College, Baltimore, and has completed many programs for a variety of learning disabilities. She was a classroom teacher for 13 years before joining our staff as a part-time resource teacher in 2003. Currently, Mrs. North serves pre-K through third grade students, identifying and supporting students with learning disabilities.

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**Margaret Ruppert**, Music

Mrs. Ruppert graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a B.A. in Music. She studied in Madrid for a year and was a volunteer music teacher at the American School of Madrid. Mrs. Ruppert has been a music teacher, parishioner, and cantor at St. John the Evangelist for some 25 years.

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**Marian McClellan**, Librarian/Media Specialist, Computers and Social Studies

Mrs. McClellan graduated from Purdue University with a degree in American History and began her teaching career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco teaching English as a foreign language. She earned a Master's in Teaching degree from the University of Maryland University College in 2007. Mrs. McClellan has been the librarian/media specialist at our school for more than a decade. She also teaches seventh and eighth grade social studies and computers. She was elected Teacher of the Year in 2008.

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**Kevin McTighe**, Physical Education

An avid sportsman, Mr. McTighe attended Rockville High School where he played football, basketball and baseball. His love of sports continued at Montgomery College, and while there he played centerfield and pitcher for the school's baseball team. After two years, he transferred to the University of Maryland, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. He joined St. John's school in 2012.

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**Erica Walz**, Spanish, Grades 3–8

Mrs. Walz is from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and holds degrees from the University of Buenos Aires: Lengues Vivas and the University of Toulouse: Toulouse LeMirail. She earned a Master's degree in Language Sciences and Applied Linguistics in France. She currently teaches Spanish to grades 3–8.

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**Nila DiRaimo**, Spanish, Grades Jr. K–2

Ms. DiRaimo received her Bachelor of Science in Education at the University of Manila in the Philippines and has taught both in the Philippines and the United States. Most recently she taught language arts, religion, social studies and ESOL at St. Catherine Laboure School. She is a certified catechist and has been a dedicated employee of the Archdiocese for 45 years.

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**Kristin Maloney, Band Director**

Ms. Maloney is a graduate of the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam where she earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a Bachelor of Arts in History. She began teaching band in the Archdiocese of Washington in 2002. Ms. Maloney has been selected twice to conduct the Archdiocesan Honors Band.

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**Pamela Adams, Social Worker**

Mrs. Adams joined our staff in 2010. She also serves as social worker with St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Mrs. Adams graduated from Susquehanna University with a B.A. in Sociology and received her Master's in Social Work from Catholic University. Her experience ranges from foster care to mental health.

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**Angela Colburn, Administrative Assistant**

Mrs. Colburn has been a life member of St. John the Evangelist Parish. She is a graduate of St. John's School, as are her three daughters. She attended Montgomery College and majored in Business Administration. She has held various positions at the school since 2006. Mrs. Colburn is also the school's medical technician.

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**Sister Mary Mercy Gilbert, I.H.M., Extended School Program Aide**

Sister Mary Mercy earned her B.A. in Education from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She also holds two Master's degrees from Marywood University, one in Religious Studies and one in Elementary School Guidance Counseling. She was the receptionist at St. John the Evangelist for 13 years, and is now an aide for the Extended School Program.

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**Marci McNickle, Receptionist/Bookkeeper.**

Mrs. McNickle has worked with the Archdiocese of Washington since 2003 in various positions. She is bilingual in English and Spanish. She is also a Medical Technician and an Extended School Program aide

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**Tina Niglio, Director of Extended School Program, Second Grade Aide**

Mrs. Niglio is a familiar face to our St. John the Evangelist community as a long-term parishioner, former school parent, and employee at the Rectory. She will also be our 2nd grade aide.

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**Sister Daniel Mary Heisey, I.H.M., Endowment Fund and Alumni Relations**

Sister Daniel Mary has a B.S., with a major in English and a minor in Music, from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She also earned her Master's degree in Education from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Currently, she serves as the school's endowment fundraiser where she led efforts to raise \$1 million. She also handles alumni relations.

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**Sister Roberta Harding, I.H.M., Sacramental Preparation**

Sister Roberta earned her B.A. in Elementary and Special Education and her M.S. in Reading Education from Marywood University. She also holds a certificate in Peer Guidance and Spiritual Direction. For two decades, Sister Roberta has guided sacramental preparation for the youth in our school and parish. She prepares new parents for baptism and coordinates programs for penance, first communion and confirmation.

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## **Additional Staff and Volunteers**

The following individuals also make significant contributions to St. John the Evangelist School as members of its staff:

- **Debbie Zajac**, Full-Time Jr. Kindergarten Aide. Mrs. Zajac joined the staff in 2008 and has been involved in school activities since her oldest child began attending in 1996.
- **Annd DeVol**, Part-Time Jr. Kindergarten Aide. Mrs. DeVol is a parent who has been involved with school activities since her oldest child began attending St. John the Evangelist in 2000.
- **Amy Maddox**, Full-Time First Grade Aide. Mrs. Maddox graduated from Montgomery College with an A.A. in Marketing.
- **Mary Lynn Urban Tirelli**, Mrs. Tirelli attended Alleghany Community College and John Abbott College in Montreal Canada. She has worked with children for over twenty years, most recently at two Archdiocese of Washington elementary schools.
- **Colleen Conner**, Extended Care Assistant. Colleen M. Conner graduated from Good Counsel High School in 1999 and received a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology from UMUC in 2013. She works full time as a Real Estate agent at McEneaney Associates in Kensington MD. Colleen is also a substitute teacher for the Archdiocese of Washington and an after care aid here at St. Johns.
- **Mr. John Higgins**, Mr. Higgins began teaching apeech in 2012. He is the grandfather of seven current students and graduates of the school. Mr. Higgins is an attorney, retired from the National Labor Relation Board. He currently teaches at Catholic University Law School and has taught there since 1982.
- **Asha Andreas**, Playground Supervisor . Mrs. Andreas joined the staff in 2013. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Biology and Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill.
- **Pedro Chilas**, Maintenance
- **Volunteers:** Kate Comello, Ging Graham, Margaret Robinson and Pat Wigmore