

Dear St. Monica Parents,

I hope your summer is off to a good start! We are getting things rolling here and have already begun the Asbestos removal in the middle school wing which is the first step of our project to renovate the school campus. We hope to have this project completed in all wings of the school by the end of July. Keep your fingers crossed!

I also want to reach out to give you an update on our staff for next year. As is always the case we have some teachers who choose to move on to new schools, make changes in profession, or relocate. We will miss them all and wish each of them much success and happiness in their new endeavors!

Departing staff are:

- **Jennifer Harry – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**
- **Susan Jones – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**
- **Lori Luna – Academic Language Therapist**
- **Stephanie Mathena – Art Teacher**
- **Tina McMahon – Library Aide**
- **Rene Parra – Middle School Math**
- **Amber Peoples – Middle School Language Arts**
- **Jeremy Ratliff – Middle School Math**
- **Naomi Rodriguez – Playground Supervisor**
- **Catherine Taffett – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**
- **Allie Veatch – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**
- **Janie Vivero – Family Center Greeter**

We are very proud to announce the new teachers and staff that will be joining the St. Monica Family. We have assembled a talented group and I hope all of our families and students will give them a very warm St. Monica welcome in August! I am happy to introduce the newest additions to our faculty:

- **Mrs. Karlee Bolin – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher** – Mrs. Bolin comes to us after teaching in the Frisco and Missouri City ISD's. Karlee is graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and ESL.
- **Mrs. Yvette Briggs – Middle School Math Teacher** – Mrs. Briggs will be joining our Math department from the Grand Prairie Independent School District where she also taught math at the middle school level. She earned her degree in education from the University of Texas at Arlington and has two sons who are attending Bishop Dunne Academy.
- **Ms. Paige Cory – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher** – Ms. Cory is making the move to St. Monica School from Dallas ISD and has also taught in the Diocese of Dallas at St. Mary of Carmel School. Paige has her Master's Degree in Education from Southern Methodist University and her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

- **Mrs. Nora Cunningham – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher** – Nora has joined the St. Monica family from God’s country, Nebraska! She comes to us from St. James/Seton Catholic School in Omaha. Mrs. Cunningham has a Master’s Degree in Literacy Education from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota and her BS in Elementary Education from Creighton University in Omaha.
- **Mrs. Darla Dorsey – Art Teacher** – Darla is making a change in schools, bringing her artistic talents to St. Monica from St. Rita. Darla holds a Master’s Degree from Texas Woman’s University and her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University.
- **Mr. Aaron Geer – Middle School Language Arts Teacher** - Mr. Geer is moving to Dallas from Phoenix, Arizona where he has taught English and literature in the middle school grades for the last five years. Mr. Geer has a Master’s Degree from East Carolina University and a BA from Western Michigan University.
- **Mrs. Laura Griffith – Academic Language Therapist** – Mrs. Griffin is transferring from Christ the King to St. Monica. Laura has her Master’s degree in Education from Southern Methodist University, is a Certified Academic Language Therapist and holds a BA from Texas Christian University.
- **Ms. Christina Harmon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher** – Ms. Harmon will be making a change in grades, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team. We are so happy to have Christina working with our second graders and helping them to prepare for their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Ms. Harmon is also a proud Texas Aggie!
- **Ms. Kristian Hillier – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher** – Ms. Hillier has been teaching in public schools for the last few years in Frisco ISD and Arlington ISD. She has worked as a staff member for DECATS and has a BA from Sam Houston State University, so she already knows the joy of being a Bearcat!
- **Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson – Middle School Math Teacher** – Mrs. Patterson is returning to SMS after a brief time away practicing law. We are happy to have Elizabeth back with the St. Monica faculty and in the math department. Mrs. Patterson has an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her law degree from Texas Tech University
- **Mrs. Nancy Smith – Library Aide** – Mrs. Smith will be joining the team in the library this fall. Nancy has a BA from the University of Missouri and an MBA from the University of South Carolina.
- **Mrs. Caroline Weinberg – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher** – Mrs. Weinberg is not actually a new staff member, but she did get married over the summer.