



STAFF UPDATES 2020-21

St. Monica Catholic School is continually blessed with excellent educators to ensure your child's spiritual and intellectual growth. Join us in wishing those who are accepting new opportunities the Peace of Christ and help us to enthusiastically welcome our new Bearcat staff to our community.

Staff Leaving:

Fred Ahern – retirement

Yvette Briggs – new position in another school

Debbie Falagradly – moving on to new opportunities

Kim Garner – moving on to new opportunities

Laura Griffith – staying home with her new baby

Tom Hood – moving to Kentucky

Lisa Keelan – moving to Nashville, Tennessee

Trey King – new position in another school

Diane Klugiewicz – retirement

Lynda Lehn – retirement

James Pena - moving to another school

Maureen Schmoll - Staying home with her new baby

We would like to thank everyone listed above for their service to St. Monica and we wish all of them the best in all future endeavors. They will be missed by our families and the students of St. Monica School.

Staff Reassignments:

Paige Cory – moving from 5th grade to Middle School English and Language Arts

Daniel Neves – moving from PE to Athletic Director

Krisztina Shields – moving from Lower School Assistant Principal to Interim Principal

Andie Sowder – moving from 5th Grade to Middle School Science

Karlee Bolin – moving from 3rd Grade to 4th Grade



Amy Melle - adding Director of Digital Learning to her responsibilities.

Karen Smith - adding Director of the June Cooper SMART Center to her responsibilities (former JCLC)

We have been blessed to hire the following new teachers for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

Amy Brown - Mrs. Brown will be joining the middle school to teach math. She earned her Bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering and her Master's degree in business administration. After a long career in a leadership position at Southwest Airlines, she started substituting at St. Monica and discovered her passion for teaching. She went back to school to obtain her teaching certificate (4-8) in Mathematics. Her diverse background and enthusiasm for teaching math in the middle school will greatly enrich our students' experiences.

Angie Foster – Ms. Foster will be joining the Preschool team and teaching our four year olds. She comes to us from St. Paul Catholic School in Richardson.

Casey Garner – Yes, Casey is Mrs. Garner's daughter! She will be teaching English and Language Arts in the 5th grade. She is a graduate of the University of Texas earning both her Bachelors and Masters degrees as a Longhorn.

Tierney Hughes – Ms. Hughes will be teaching PE next year. She is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio and has coached basketball at Ursuline Academy.

Lori Luna – Mrs. Luna is coming home after a year away. She will be working again as an experienced language therapist, and will be adding expertise in executive functioning support for students. She is a graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. She has two Bearcat graduates, John Joseph who attends Jesuit and Caroline who will be starting Ursuline Academy in the fall!

Marci Mauriello – Mrs. Mauriello comes to us from St. Mark School in Plano and will be taking over as our school librarian. Marci earned her BA from Texas Christian University and her Masters in Library Science from Texas Woman's University.

Kayla McKenna - Ms. McKenna will be joining the 1st grade team. She is one of our youngest teachers, just graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Education. Her enthusiasm and fresh energy will be a wonderful addition to St. Monica.

Jordan Murray – Mr. Murray will be joining the PE department next year. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and played football for the Mean Green for four years.



Meredith Newman – Meredith will be joining our staff as a member of the Digital Learning Team. She will be working with Bearcats of various ages as they build their digital skills and STEM experiences. Mrs. Newman earned her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and she is in the process of obtaining her Masters degree in digital learning.

Patricia Rodriguez – Mrs. Rodriguez comes to our school from Cristo Rei. She served in the same capacity, a school nurse, at Cristo Rey. She is a Registered Nurse with more than 10 years' experience. She is an instrumental member of our COVID -19 task force.

Andrew Zerhusen – Mr. Zerhusen will be joining the staff as a middle school religion teacher, replacing Ms. Herrin and Mrs. Bowditch. Andy has been a theology teacher at Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills, Kentucky, since 2007, teaching freshman theology. Mr. Zerhusen has a BA in communications from Northern Kentucky University and a Masters in Educational Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Please make all of our new staff feel welcome as members of the Bearcat family! We are blessed to have found such excellent educators and I believe they will be great additions to the faculty.