



## NEW FACULTY – 2025-26

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God continues to bless Saint Agnes School with amazing new hires!

Please pray for each of our new faculty members over the remainder of the summer. Let's warmly welcome each of them in August as they bring their experiences, talents, and ideas to aid in the work of forming Catholic hearts and minds in Faith, Reason, and Virtue.

### *- Upper School Faculty -*

#### **Sr. Mary Canisius, O.P. – Upper School English**

Sr. Maria Canisius earned undergraduate degrees in German and History, with a minor in Creative Writing from the University of Northern Iowa. Before she entered religious life, she earned an MA in European History at Saint Louis University. As a Sister, she completed an MA in Education at the Catholic University of America and an MA in Theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. She taught high school for eight years before serving as the Director of Communications for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist for the past two years. She is an avid reader and loves discussing literature; she's excited to meet our freshman!



#### **Miss Rose Birkey - Upper School Mathematics**

Miss Birkey ('20) graduated from Benedictine College with a B.A. in Mathematics and Secondary Education, and she began her teaching career at St. Peter's Catholic School in North St. Paul. She writes, "I have a deep love of math that was grown at Saint Agnes, and look forward to growing the same love in the next group of Saint Agnes students." Her hobbies include reading, crocheting, singing, and playing card games. We're excited to welcome another alum back to our teaching ranks!

**Mr. Alan Koval - Upper School Mathematics & Science**

Mr. Koval earned a B.S. in Mathematics, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Following undergraduate studies, he worked as a computational software engineer before pursuing a teaching position. He writes, "I wish that all would see math as a unique window into God as truth, a field categorically immutable yet whose outlines are traced more and more completely over millennia of refinement." He is interested in mathematical coding such as path tracing, computational geometry and simulations. He has met many Saint Agnes students while volunteering with the youth group at St. Ambrose Catholic Community in Woodbury, and at the Church of St. Mark in St. Paul.



**- Lower School Faculty -**

**From Mrs. Naughton:** *Before we share our fantastic line up of new faculty, we are excited to share a few internal shifts for some of our teachers:*

- **Mr. Justin Theodotou**, who was a second-grade homeroom teacher for several years before coming to teach at Saint Agnes, will be moving back into that age range, as one of our third-grade homeroom teachers.
- **Mrs. Christina Pederson**, who has extensive experience as a literature and music specialist will be moving back into a specialist role as our new Lower School Religion teacher. This role will now cover grades K, 1, 3, 4 and 5.
- **Miss Rose Coleman** will be taking all her incredible talents to serve both the school and the parish as a sacramental prep coordinator, and she will also teach grade 2 Religion (the First Confession and First Communion year).

We are grateful and blessed to have such dynamic teachers who are able to serve our community in various roles.

We are overjoyed to welcome the following teachers to our team this coming year (continues on following pages):

### **Miss Megan Busse – *Grade 3 Homeroom***

Ms. Busse served as a long-term substitute teacher at Saint Agnes this past school year in the third grade and then in our faculty/staff daycare. She also choreographed parts of *The Sound of Music* here at Saint Agnes this year. Prior to arriving at Saint Agnes, Ms. Busse taught 4th, 5th and 6th grade at St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School for three years. Ms. Busse attended the University of Wisconsin, River Falls where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Dance Education. We are excited to have Miss Busse back!



### **Miss Caterina Morales – *Grade 4 Homeroom***

Miss Morales graduated in the spring of 2024 from Ave Maria University with her B.A. in History and minor in Theology. Since then, she has moved back to the Twin Cities and has been pursuing a career in Education. During this past school year, she taught part-time grades 4-6 with Aquinas Learning Center, a hybrid school that hosts a Catholic, classical, and integrated curriculum, and is excited to step into a fully in-person Homeroom teaching position this year at Saint Agnes. Caterina loves all things 20th-century History and will happily accept any good

book recommendations!

### **Sister Mary Lawrence, O.P. – *Grade 5 Homeroom***

Sr. Mary Lawrence was previously assigned at the Dominican Sisters' Motherhouse and teaching at one of their Spiritus Sanctus Academies in Michigan. At Spiritus Sanctus, Sister taught grade 5 homeroom and also grade 6 History. We are told by the sisters that she is "hilarious" and has a great sense of humor. We are excited to welcome Sr. Mary Lawrence to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade team!





**Mrs. Chiara Millikan – *Grade 6 Homeroom***

Many of our students and staff got to know Mrs. Millikan this year as she joined our sub team and we were delighted when she applied to one of our open positions. Chiara is a Wisconsin native and Minneapolis transplant; she was born and raised in Milwaukee and attended Marquette University, where she earned her degree and met her husband. They have been happily married for 16 years! Chiara has been teaching for 6 years and was blessed to be able to live and teach in both California and Florida while her husband was stationed in both places serving in the Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot. They have one daughter in our Lower School, one German Shepherd, two cats, and are currently fostering five kittens and their mother. When she's not teaching or handling the menagerie of animals at her house, Chiara loves to travel, read, work on puzzles, and quilt. She is thrilled to join the Saint Agnes community and looks forward to working with our Aggies!

**Mr. David Heintz - *Grade 6 Homeroom***

David Heintz is thrilled to be joining the Saint Agnes community. He and his wife, Anna, live in Maplewood with their four children, all of whom will be attending Saint Agnes in the fall. David is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas where he majored in Geology and completed his teaching license in K-6 Elementary Education. For 23 years, David has been teaching throughout the Archdiocese and has been fortunate to teach various



grade levels. Throughout his career, David has always had a special place in his heart for upper elementary, and is sincerely looking forward to helping form the hearts and minds of the 6th graders at Saint Agnes. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, hiking, camping, canoeing/kayaking, and reading. David shared: "As we move through this time of summer vacation, I pray that all of you find the rest, relaxation, and renewal that you need, and I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the fall."





**Mrs. Betsy Anderson - Lower School Academic Intervention Specialist**

Betsy Anderson shares that she is so grateful to be joining the Saint Agnes staff as the academic intervention specialist in the Lower School. She has taught elementary reading and math intervention in Stillwater Area Schools for 20 years. Her oldest son Thorin is a junior at Saint Agnes, and her daughter Ingrid is an incoming freshman in the fall. Her younger two children, Kjersten and Leif, attend St. Croix Catholic. Betsy's husband is a military intelligence officer and serves as a plans chief for the Minnesota Army National Guard. The Andersons live in Marine on St. Croix. Betsy is looking forward to meeting everyone and to serving this beautiful community.

*Once again, please pray for our new faculty members  
and the adjustments to our teaching team for the upcoming 2025-26 school year!  
Have a blessed summer!*



*Forming Catholic Hearts & Minds  
in Faith, Reason, & Virtue*