



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

SMCS Welcomes New Personnel

Fox Cities: St. Mary Catholic Schools is pleased to welcome several new employees to various positions in the school system.

Sue Peters has been hired as the new alumni relations coordinator, and will develop and strengthen ties to the system's alumni community. Peters is a parent of two SMCHS alumni and two current system students.

Rachel Brown, a 2009 graduate of St. Mary Central High School, has been hired as the physical education and health instructor for St. Mary Catholic Middle School, following two years' experience at Lourdes Academy in Oshkosh. She will also serve as assistant director of athletics and activities, providing support to Athletics and Activities Director Adam Bates in handling all aspects of managing events and athletic activities.

Julie Castagna, a guidance counselor who previously worked at Pacelli Catholic and Hortonville High Schools is the new high school guidance counselor. She brings experience in all aspects of high school counseling including conferencing, post-secondary application and scholarship processes, individual and group counseling, and academic and career planning.

Jason Tursky has been promoted to dean of students at the high school. Tursky has been with SMCS since 2009 and has a leadership/human development degree from UW-Green Bay. He will be responsible for student engagement including conflict resolution and student and staff relationships to promote learning. Tursky will also be responsible for system-wide analytical support and safe environment compliance.

Jeanine Leege will be the administrator at both St. Gabriel and St. Mary Elementary Schools, with the support of Jill Ahles working as a teaching assistant principal at the St. Gabriel campus.

In addition to these lead positions, the following educators will be joining the team at St. Mary Catholic Schools: Mary Dolan, Elizabeth Hirst, Beth Southard, and Monica Zapp at the elementary schools; Kari Coenen for middle school Spanish; Spencer Jones as the high school vocal teacher; Crystal Lensmeyer as the high school learning specialist and Samantha Stelzl in high school English.

St. Mary Catholic Schools employees will gather for faculty and staff meetings and a kick-off retreat on August 25 and 26. Student orientation will take place on August 24 for the high school and on August 29 for grades K-8, with the first day of classes on Tuesday, August 30.

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) includes St. Mary Catholic High School and the new St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Town of Menasha and St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha). SMCS is dedicated to the individual development of each student in grades Pre3-12, by providing the highest quality education focused on faith, academics and service in a rapidly changing world.

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