

Congratulations

Miss Jane



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 25 years!

AN INTERVIEW WITH MISS JANE...

What makes a "good day" at school? Really all days are good when I am in the classroom! However, I really enjoy the special days where the parents come into the classroom (pumpkin carving, egg dyeing, Christmas Fun day) to be with their children - I love watching the interactions!

How do you keep things "fresh" ? I love learning! I usually take a class or two online during the summer and I am always looking for new ideas to engage the children. I enjoy changing things up - the classroom set-up, new ways to do the same activity, and learning from other preschool teachers.

What is your favorite part about being a teacher? Engaging the children in a learning game that is disguised as play time. And then when the parent asks the children what they did at school the child says. "ALL I did was PLAY!"

Are there any embarrassing teaching moments you're willing to share? One of my first years at SMS we went on a field trip to a pumpkin patch, but we were unclear of how to get there. This is in the day before GPS, cell phones, etc. and all we had was a paper map! We never found the pumpkin patch and I had to go buy a pumpkin for each child at the grocery store. So much for "hands on learning!"

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? I love taking the preschoolers on field trips, but I do not enjoy traveling, so I am fine staying around the Owatonna area. I would love to take the children to see a bee farm and learn how honey is made.

How do you spend your summer breaks? Relaxing, enjoying the outdoors, golfing, long bike rides, walking with friends, and saying thank you for all my blessings. I also, think about the year behind me and the one ahead. School is never too far from my mind.

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? Aside from the obvious, I do NOT live at school (they all think that I do). The preschoolers would be surprised to find out that I love playing with play dough as much as they do.

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Always, always be true to yourself. And, as hard as this is for me to do (and believe me it is) never, never give up!

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? The children, parents, and the many, many families that I have had the pleasure to serve. And, how the families and students never forget you...at the Steele County Fair this summer a couple came up to me and said, "Hi, Miss Jane, remember us? " I did remember them and their 3 children that I taught WAY back when! The couple reported that all 3 children are successful adults and 2 have children of their own. In some way I have had a small part in so many children's lives!

Congratulations

Mr. Ostermeier



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 20 years!



AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. OSTERMEIER...

What makes a "good day" at school? My day always starts off great when I see students and staff in the hallways. They are always so nice and make everyone feel special with their upbeat attitude!

How do you keep things "fresh" ? I go to a summer workshop each year to get inspired and bring back some new ideas. I also talk to other music teachers to share what they do in class. My biggest help is my daughter who is also a music teacher.

What is your favorite part about being a teacher? I have always enjoyed working with children. They inspire me to be a better person.

What is the funniest thing a student has said to you? Once, I pulled out a vinyl record. A student said with wide eyes open, "Wow, that is the biggest CD I have ever seen!"

Are there any embarrassing teaching moments you're willing to share? Too many come to mind. Maybe tripping over a chord at a concert and landing face down on the floor?!?

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? I would love to share the beauty of Italy with them. The arts are such a big part of everyone's life there - and what history!!! Can this be arranged please?

How do you spend your summer breaks? My family loves camping. We camp with our three children and six grandchildren most of the time. Last year, we camped with my wife's family - 18 adults and 20 kids!

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? Like many, I am terrified of giving public speeches.

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Be kind to everyone you meet. Life is too short to hold grudges.

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? It is a home away from home -a place where I love to come every day! I am very thankful to work with other staff who are so committed to teaching and sharing their faith. Most important are our great kids and their families. We are blessed!

Congratulations

Connie



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 40 years!



AN INTERVIEW WITH CONNIE...

What makes a "good day" in the office? The internet, phone, and the copier are working...and everything on my list gets done (okay - maybe part of my list gets done)!

How do you keep things "fresh" ? With all the technology changes, there's never a dull moment! I am forced to learn something new every day. Things have changed a lot over the years on how we do things...

What is your favorite part about being a business manager? The feeling that all my coworkers give me. We are truly a family working together for the better of the school.

What is the funniest thing a student has said to you? There are too many to remember!

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Not a very realistic question - our budget would never allow for this (LOL!)but, if I could take the staff and students on a field trip, I would take them to Big Horn Mountains, as long as I could have just as much fun as they have! (I love mountains!)

How do you spend your summer breaks? I spend a lot of the summer in the office. But, when time permits, I enjoy spending extra time with my grandchildren, spending time outside, and taking weekend trips with my husband to almost anywhere.

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? I ride a Harley!

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Be kind to everyone and treat others the way you would like to be treated.

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? I enjoy the variety of work that I do, but my co-workers and smiles on the children's faces are worth smiling about too!

Congratulations

Mrs. Lattery



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 20 years!



AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. LATTERY...

What makes a "good day" at school? Every day is good at SMS! The children's smiling faces and "let's get started" attitude make each day fabulous!

How do you keep things "fresh" ? Teach a different grade! After 15 years in fifth grade, I moved to 3rd!

What is your favorite dish in the cafeteria? Turkey and gravy over mashed potatoes and stuffing!!

What is your favorite part about being a teacher? Hugs, sweet comments, hugs, funny stories, hugs, the "light bulb going on" face, hugs, and so much more...did I mention hugs?!

What is the funniest thing a student has said to you? "I think you are really going to be enjoy me!" (He was right! I did enjoy him!)

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? I would take my third graders in a submarine to see all the ocean animals. Third graders love animals to begin with, and after our endangered species unit, they're crazy for them!

How do you spend your summer breaks? Reading books! I can't read much during the school year because when I really get into a book, I stay up way too late!

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? Once, when kayaking in Florida, my kayak got slapped by the tail of a six-foot bull shark!

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Every single day...just be your best you that you can be! The Holy Spirit is inside you helping you out!

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? The friendships and relationships here are so inspiring. The staff and students can shock you - in a good way - each and every day!

Congratulations

Mrs. Hall



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 5 years!

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HALL...

What makes a "good day" at school? Seeing all my smiling, happy students eager to learn something new along with me!

How do you keep things "fresh" ? I am always looking to improve my teaching by thinking about the latest brain research and how students learn best.

What is your favorite dish from the cafeteria? Chicken and gravy over mashed potatoes. Yum!

What is your favorite part about being a teacher? Working with students to reach their goals.

Are there any embarrassing teaching moments you're willing to share? It seems like I should have many, but I cannot think of any. Maybe because I hope to forget about those moments.

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?
I would take the first graders to Disney World!!

How do you spend your summer breaks? I spend time with my family: my husband Jeff and our two boys Harvin and Phillip. We go to different Minnesota State Parks to hike, fish, camp, and explore. We also enjoy spending time outside biking, swimming, or playing in the backyard.

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? I know how to polka dance! Thanks to my grandparents!

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Learn something new each day!

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? I have enjoyed getting to know the students and their families. It feels like home here.

Congratulations

Mrs. Bastyr



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 20 years!

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. BASTYR...

What makes a "good day" at school? A "good day at school is knowing I have been there for my students and impacting them in a positive way for the rest of their life.

How do you keep things "fresh" ? With the internet and a great teaching partner to collaborate with, it makes it is easy to bring new and innovative ideas to the classroom.

What is your favorite dish from the cafeteria? Beef Nachos!

What is your favorite part about being a teacher? My favorite part of being a teacher is seeing the light turn on when concepts are learned. I love getting to know each and every student in my class; they are my second family. I love hearing from students after they graduate from 8th grade, high school, and college to take note of what they are doing with their life.

What is the funniest thing a student has said to you? This was said at farm appreciation day at the high school. The Dairy Princess asked 4th grade students what kind of milk they get from a brown cow. The student replies "Chocolate." (I shouldn't have teased them in a nutrition lesson a month prior. I thought they knew I was teasing.)

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? I would take my class to Hershey, Pennsylvania because at the end of the year we do a Chocolate unit. It would be a great experience learning all about chocolate. We would even get to create our own special candy bar.

How do you spend your summer breaks? During the summer I enjoy taking a vacation, reading, walking with my neighbor, and baking. I also continue to work on school items to enrich the classes I am teaching.

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? I was very shy in grade school.

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Know that God is always with you and will guide you throughout your life.

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? The family atmosphere. The parents and students are wonderful and we can share our love of God with each other.

Congratulations

Mrs. Nash



Making a difference at St. Mary's School for 20 years!



AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. NASH...

What makes a "good day" at school? Being able to help others and having students tell me "Thank you for helping me understand things better."

How do you keep things "fresh" ? I make a tree out of paper to follow the holiday and cut out shapes to go with the holiday. Students write their name on these shapes if they bring back their work or go above what was asked of them, and then they place the shape on the tree. It's a visual of "greatness" each season and excites the students I work with.

What is your favorite dish from the cafeteria? Spaghetti, Salad Bar, Cheeseburger

What is your favorite part about being an aide? There is more than one way to learn, and when I find the way that works for each student, it is very rewarding.

What is the funniest thing a student has said to you? "I know you...you are the napkin lady!"

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? We would go to Cancun, Mexico to swim in the ocean and make the world's largest sand castle!

How do you spend your summer breaks? I like to spend my summers with family and friends, going to the lake. I love the outdoors, bonfires, music and BBQs!

What would the students be surprised to find out about you? I would love to play an instrument and sing in a band!

If you could pass on any wisdom to our students, what would you share? Everyone has unique qualities that make them special. Be proud of what makes you....YOU!

What have you enjoyed most about SMS? I love my reading groups and all the people I work with. There's a great family feel.