

Holy Redeemer School Newsletter



September
2020

Mrs. Katrina Fernandez, Principal
Fr. Mark Smith, Pastor

Principal's News

Dear Holy Redeemer Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! A new year always brings new opportunities for growth. We pray that this year will bring outstanding achievements and a spirit of community all while reaffirming our faith in God. Despite how learning looks this year, our school community has excelled and thrived over the last week. It will only get better from here. I am blessed to be a part of Holy Redeemer School. We are off to a great start!

As you know, we have transitioned to Google Apps for Education. This means all our students will have access to Google Classroom and Calendar to support their distance learning. If you are having trouble with accessing the Google Classroom please reach out to Tech Support at tech_support@holy-redeemer.org. We appreciate your patience as we continue to upgrade our technology and systems to best support our students and teachers.

Although we cannot host many of our traditional events, we look forward to some exciting and new ventures from our Home and School Association and school community. Our first event is a new spin on our traditional Ice Cream Social! Check the Thursday folder for more details.

This month we will also be hosting our first thru eighth grade virtual students for the Scantron Assessment. If you have not done so, please take a moment to sign up for a time to come in and take the assessment. [Click here](#) to access the sign up. The access code is HRS. More details can be found in the Thursday Folder.

We have many new staff members joining the HRS community and some have changed roles within the school. I know you will welcome them with the same warmth and support you always do.

- Mrs. Shindana Crawford – Vice Principal and Music
- Mr. Michael Micallef – Kindergarten Instructional Assistant
- Mrs. Brianna Alaimo – Art
- Ms. Wendy Blanco – First Grade
- Mrs. Gabrielle Steckler – Third Grade
- Mr. Joseph Limarzi – Sixth Grade Homeroom/Math (4-8)
- Ms. Colleen Brady – Seventh Grade Homeroom/English & Literature (6-8)
- Ms. Emerson Watkins – Library/STREAM Specialist
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Check out the following pages for more information on our newest staff members.

This will be a year of transition and new opportunities, but I am already certain that it will be a wonderful year. I am looking forward to a great school year full of learning and growing. We are truly blessed to be a Catholic parish school rooted in Gospel values, and committed to our motto of, "Excellence in Education with the Power of Faith."

Blessings,

Mrs. Fernandez

Upcoming Dates To Remember

- ❖ 9/7/2020: Labor Day-No School
- ❖ 9/11/2020: HSA Virtual Ice Cream Social
- ❖ 9/14-18/2020: Scantron Testing Week
- ❖ 9/14/2020: HRS Opening School Prayer Service
- ❖ 9/16/2020: HRS Opening School Mass
- ❖ 9/21/2020: Potomac Pizza Restaurant Night, 4-8pm
- ❖ 9/23/2020: Half day for all students
- ❖ 9/30/2020: Progress Reports will be sent home

“Teaching is the greatest act of optimism.”

Mr. Michael Micallef

Mr. Michael Micallef is our new full time Kindergarten Instructional Assistant. Mr. Micallef attended HRS from Kindergarten until graduating the eighth grade in 2009, and then went on to graduate from DeMatha Catholic High School in 2013. Mr. Micallef earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland in Criminal Justice, and he is now currently working towards receiving his teaching certificate this upcoming winter. Many students already know Mr. Micallef because he has worked in our Extended Care Program since the Fall of 2014. The transition into his new position has been seamless and we are very blessed to have him on our Primary Team!



Mrs. Gabrielle Steckler

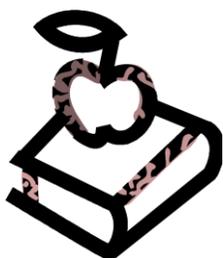
Mrs. Gabrielle Steckler the new third grade teacher. She has a degree in Education with a minor in Counseling from Indiana University. She began her career as a Title I Instructional Assistant, and then went on to teach first grade at a Catholic school in Indiana for the past two years. She is thrilled to be one of the newest members of the HRS community and looks forward to getting know her students!



Senorita Wendy Blanco

Senorita Wendy Blanco is our new First Grade teacher. She has been in the education field for eight years, teaching students from infancy to third grade. For the past two years, she taught first grade and Spanish at another ADW Catholic School. Senorita Blanco received her bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Interdisciplinary Studies from Liberty University, and is currently working on a Master’s in teaching from the Notre Dame of Maryland University. We are excited to have her on our Primary Team!

“The best Teachers tell you where to look, but not what to see.”

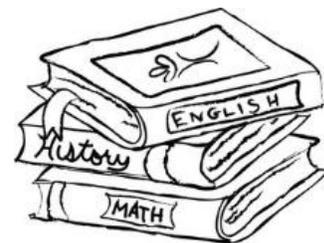


Ms. Colleen Brady

Colleen Brady is the new 7th grade homeroom teacher at Holy Redeemer. She will be teaching middle school English and literature. Colleen studied English and biology at Boston College and has been teaching at the middle school level for the past four years. Colleen is passionate about raising literacy rates, building community, and challenging students to think deeply about their engagement in society. We are very excited to welcome her to our Middle School Team!

Ms. Emerson Watkins

Ms. Watkins is beginning her first year of teaching at Holy Redeemer. She has a Bachelor’s degree in English from Colgate University, and she is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in moral theology at Catholic University. She moved to the D.C. area from Denver, where she completed a year of service with the Sisters of Loretto. She loves to bake, knit, and read, and she is passionate about Catholic education and fostering students’ love of reading.



Principal’s note: Please join me in praying for each of them as they begin this new chapter at Holy Redeemer School. I look forward to continuing our “Excellence in Education with the Power of Faith.”

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