


August 1, 2025

St. Margaret of Scotland Families:

I hope everyone is having a wonderful and relaxing summer. I am writing to provide some late summer updates before the school year begins. First, I would like to introduce you to some new faculty and staff members who have joined our team at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School. I also want to provide some brief information on some new initiatives for the 2025/2026 school year. Know that the administrative team is working hard to make sure we have a great beginning to the next school year. Have a great rest of your summer, and we will see you in a few weeks.

God Bless,



Patrick Holley

NEW FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Kay McVey: Ms. McVey will be joining the SMOS school and parish staff as our new Coordinator of Religious Education. Ms. Mcvey has a wealth of experience in ministry in both the Education and Health Care sectors. In her past, she has served as a director of liturgy, director of music ministries, a liturgical pastoral associate, and a manager of mission formation. Ms. Mcvey has her Bachelor's degree in music education and her Master's degree in Theology. I am excited to welcome her to our school and look forward to working with her as a member of our administrative team.

Mrs. Abby Jo Rezac: Mrs. Rezac is a familiar face at SMOS. She served as a substitute teacher for us last year. I am happy that she is bringing her expertise to our new preschool classroom. Mrs. Rezac has extensive teaching experience in both kindergarten and first grade. She has a bachelor's degree in Education and Human Sciences and is certified in Elementary Education. I know she will be a strong addition to our preschool team.

In the end, it's the beginning that counts.

Mr. John Fete: I am happy to introduce you to Mr. Fete, who will be serving as our new Middle School Religion Teacher. Mr. Fete is a graduate of the University of Kansas, where he earned his degree in Psychology. After graduating from college, Mr. Fete spent a year in service, teaching Language Arts at Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Fete is joining the Biliken Teacher Corps, a program at St. Louis University. He will live in a community and teach full-time while pursuing his Master's Degree in Education.

Mr. Patrick Horvath: Please join me in welcoming Mr. Patrick Horvath, who will be serving as our new Middle School ELA teacher. Mr. Horvath is joining the world of education after almost fifteen years as a decorated police officer at the Washington University Police Department. Mr. Horvath has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in history from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. He is certified in Crisis Intervention Training and has training as an Active Shooter responder. He is a certified instructor for Fair and Impartial (DEI) training and is also a certified Cyber, Computer, and Computer Forensics Crime investigator. He has taught PSR for several years and has worked in his Parish in several capacities. Mr. Horvath brings several invaluable skills to SMOS.

Coach Alexander Miller: Mr. (Coach) Miller will be serving as our new Physical Education teacher. Coach Miller was a decorated college wrestler at Lindenwood University, where he earned his BA in Marketing. After his undergraduate studies, he became a graduate assistant and coach at Benedictine College, where he earned his MBA. After finding a love of teaching, Coach Miller worked as a middle school science teacher/physical education teacher at Atonement Lutheran School before teaching strength and conditioning and as head wrestling coach at St. Mary's Southside High School. I am very happy to have someone of Coach Miller's experience join our team.

Amie Knafelc: I am very happy to introduce Amie Knafelc as the new STREAM teacher at St. Margaret of Scotland. Ms. Knafelc is new to teaching and has spent the last several years as a Senior and Media Lab Technician. She has also spent time as an Animal Care technician. Ms. Knafelc has a Bachelor's degree of Science in Biology and Medical Science with minors in chemistry and forensic sciences. I know that her skill in the realm of Science will help transfer to applicable and real-world, project-based learning for our students.

Mark Ashby: Please join me in welcoming Mr. Ashby to our intermediate team as our new fifth-grade teacher. While new to teaching, Mr. Ashby comes to us from a long career in public policy, working for transit and transportation departments in Oregon, California, Illinois, and Missouri. He has spent several years serving as a substitute teacher in the Archdiocese of St.

Louis. Mr. Ashby holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science/Spanish and a Master's degree in Public Policy/Urban Affairs. We are very lucky to have someone with Mr. Ashby's knowledge and experience join our team.

NEW INITIATIVES

Restorative Behavioral Management Plan

A committee of teachers has been working hard this past year on evaluating and updating our behavioral management system at St. Margaret of Scotland. After much research and discussion, we have decided to base this system on Restorative Practices. While we have been using these to some extent for several years, we are excited to rededicate ourselves to restorative practices. We are also adjusting our handbook to highlight these practices. Please read our family handbook carefully to see our adjusted policies.

Updated PE Uniform Policy

PreK - 3rd Grade:

Regular School Uniform shorts/pants and shirt.

4th - 8th Grade:

Worn ONLY on Scheduled PE days:

- SMOS mandated [PE shorts from South City Sporting Goods](#).
- SMOS T-shirt

All students must wear tennis shoes on PE days.

*Only Solid Navy or Black Leggings underneath PE shorts.

*In colder weather, only SMOS jogger sweatpants from South City Sporting Goods are allowed.

South City Sporting Goods: <https://bit.ly/smosspirit>

Gym shorts in stock now. Jogger Sweatpants will be added soon.

Full uniform details available under [Dress Code](#) on the school website.