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The Falcon's Nest



Introducing Margaret Karl

SLCA would like to introduce you to the newest member of the community and leadership team, Margaret Karl. Beginning July 1, 2017, Margaret Karl joined the Catholic Education Office to fill the role of Director of City Catholic Elementary Schools.



In her role, Mrs. Karl will work with Ms. Morton to make sure academic performance, Catholic identity and all other needs of the students and school community are being met. She has an extensive background in education having served at Visitation Academy and Villa Duchesne as principal for many years. We had a chance to sit down with Mrs. Karl to learn more about her.

Tell us more about yourself.

I was raised Catholic. I am one of ten children, I have six brothers and three sisters. I am the sixth in line. Our faith was always the center of our life. Our Parish growing up was St. Joseph in Clayton. I am married to Jeff Karl. I have one daughter and two granddaughters (ages 8 and 2). We belong to St. Gerard Majella Parish.

Why did you decide to go into education?

For the last 39 years, I have been a principal in Catholic Elementary Schools. My initial beginning in education was as a special education teacher in a self-contained learning disabilities classroom, I then moved into a principal position upon finishing my Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision.

Children inspire me! I enjoy seeing children learn and achieve success. It is so awesome to watch children get excited about learning, and begin to question and display their creativity as they explore and want to know more. Children make me want to continue to learn. I consider myself a lifelong learner.

It's only been a few months, but what can you tell our readers about your new role?

I have thoroughly enjoyed it! I love being able to visit the different schools and see the various programs and the impact they are having on our students. The principals and administrators in each of our schools know their communities well and have developed a program that addresses the needs specific of their school.

I look forward to working with each school community to continue to make education accessible and affordable. Together our goal is to challenge our students academically to allow them greater opportunities in their future educational choices.

Student Spotlight

Kaylei A., 3rd Grade

"Our teachers keep us protected. They help us learn new things and get us where we need to go."

We would like to introduce you to Kaylei. Kaylei is in third grade and she loves being a student at SLCA. Her favorite subject is music because she loves to sing. She has been attending SLCA since first grade and her favorite thing about this school year is the new school uniforms.

After spending a few minutes with Kaylei, watching her eyes light up with a contagious smile when talking about school, it is clear that she is a good student and wants to do well. Her goal is to attend Villa Duchesne High School, and says "When I grow up, I want to be a Villa girl!" She compares herself to her favorite book character, Junie B. Jones, because "while Junie is a little bit goofy, she is independent, strong and she can keep herself calm."

She would like you to know that "My school is a great place. I have many friends. Our teachers keep us protected. They help us learn new things and get us where we need to go."

The Principal's Corner

A Message from Principal Morton



Dear Friends of St. Louis Catholic Academy,

The magical beauty of October has arrived with a mosaic of colorful leaves falling from the trees. The beauty and colorful changes are not only happening outside—it is happening right inside the walls of St. Louis Catholic Academy as well. At our first all school mass, Fr. Steve Giljum's message was "We are about the Father's business." That is, the business of teaching, learning and developing a godly character that brings God glory. This set the tone for the start of our school year and our students are settled into their new routines and immersed in learning.

This school year we have seen a lot of positive change and implementations. This summer, we renovated the library/learning space. This new, inviting space will be used for each grade level not only for library purposes but for tutoring, research and other quiet activities. We also have a new, vibrant uniform that the parents and students love. We also welcomed many families and students from St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral that recently closed to join our family at St. Louis Catholic. We are thrilled to report that our enrollment is now at 137 students in K-8. Lastly, as you will read further in this newsletter, we welcomed a new partner to our program, ACCESS Academies. As part of the Archdiocesan Elementary School model, SLCA is excited with ACCESS Academies to broaden and enhance our extended care program for our 6th-8th grade students and welcome a Graduate Support Director (GSD) to further guide our families about high school decisions and college. Ms. Joselyn Sandford was the GSD for St. Louis the King students and will continue her work with our students.

None of this is possible without the support of our parents, volunteers, donors and the many people that pray for our success. Thanks to you, we are "about the Father's business." We are Ambassadors for Christ.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Sandra Morton".

Sandra Morton
Principal



Building Young Leaders at 8th Grade Retreat



Every year since 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Peggy Henderson have opened up their home in North County to welcome the young leaders at St. Louis Catholic Academy for a retreat. “It is important for our 8th graders to be leaders and to show up as leaders in the hallways and in the classroom. They are setting the tone for the other students,” says Peggy Henderson.

This idea to host a retreat at their home came to Ron and Peggy soon after their home was struck by a tornado. She felt called to be more impactful with the SLCA students. Both Peggy and Ron are active members of the parish, St. Elizabeth Mother of John the Baptist Church, located on the same campus as the school. Both are believers in what Catholic education can do for students. Mr. Henderson currently is a board member on the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation board that offers significant scholarship support to students at the school.

The retreat held on September 29 welcomed 23 8th grade students. The purpose was to have a day focused on the following: leadership skills, spiritual formation and service to the community, teambuilding, and of course, fun. Fr. Steve Giljum, Principal Sandra Morton, and Peggy coordinated and planned this meaningful day for the students. “It was a beautiful day to spend in a comfortable setting away from the classroom and to honor them as leaders,” said Ms. Morton. The students prayed, listened to each other, watched two videos about leadership and explored topics such as “How can I present myself as a good leader?” and “How am I showing respect for faith, community, family and myself?” Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Henderson for opening up their home and being partners with our school community.

Do you have an idea or suggestion to impact our students? Please let us know. Contact Ms. Morton or Toni Ponder.

ACCESS is incredibly excited to partner with St. Louis Catholic Academy to provide students with critical academic, social, and emotional support from middle school through high school and into college. Since 2005, 98% of the students in the program have been admitted to private, college-prep high schools; 99% have graduated on-time; and 95% have been accepted to colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions.

This unique model is offered free of charge and is now embedded within St. Louis Catholic Academy’s middle school. All students in 6th – 8th grade who attend St. Louis Catholic Academy are enrolled in the program—there is no application or vetting process. With the support and oversight of SLCA’s principal, services include creating and supporting an extended school day and summer school program to support the school’s robust curriculum and provide homework assistance, extracurricular activities, and enrichment classes. It is directed by Ms. Joslyn Sandford, the ACCESS school-based Graduate Support Director.

Ms. Joslyn has been with ACCESS Academies for five years, and monitors each middle school student’s academic progress and provides advocacy, counseling and mentoring services. She will also work with middle school students and their families to find a private, college-prep high school that fits their unique personality and learning style. Once accepted, ACCESS will provide significant high school tuition scholarships.

During high school, ACCESS continues to monitor each student’s academic growth and achievement through the Graduate Support Program. Ms. Joslyn will visit each student’s high school regularly for progress updates. ACCESS will also begin preparing high school students for college by coordinating college visits, funding ACT prep courses, providing college application and essay support, and counseling students and their families on the FAFSA. Finally, ACCESS will support college-bound students by covering all ACT tests and college application costs.

St. Louis Catholic Academy is pleased to partner with ACCESS to offer this critical support to our students and families. To learn more about ACCESS Academies, visit the website at ACCESSacademies.org.

22nd Annual Fr. Bob's Golf Tournament



Thank you to all of those that attended the **22nd Annual Fr. Bob's Golf Tournament**. This year, the event was held at Algonquin Country Club and we had a wonderful turnout! We would like to thank Fr. Bob and Mr. and Mrs. Mooney for their support every year. We would also like to thank our Master of Ceremonies Mr. Dan McLaughlin for his support with auction item donations. Lastly, thank you to the volunteers from Footwear Unlimited, and to all of our sponsors and donors for making this fabulous event possible.

The tournament raised over **\$100,000** to support SLCA!

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*Thank you to the generous individuals, corporations, and foundations that have supported St. Louis Catholic Academy! This alphabetical list of donors is for the time period of **February 1, 2017 through September 1, 2017**. To be included in our next newsletter, please make a gift online to sca-stl.org or use the envelope provided. We try our best to include every gift (including in kind) and apologize if you were omitted. If you gave a gift to SLCA during this time period and your name is omitted, please inform our development office at 314-792-7045.*

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To learn more about giving opportunities at St. Louis Catholic Academy, please contact **Toni Ponder** at toniponder@archstl.org or 314-792-7045



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