



NEW FACULTY – 2022-23

God continues to bless Saint Agnes School with amazing new faculty members!

Please pray for each of our new colleagues over the summer.

Let's warmly welcome each of them in August as they bring their experiences, talents, and ideas to aid in the work of forming Catholic hearts and minds in Faith, Reason, and Virtue.



Mr. Joshua Blonski – Dean of Students & Upper School Latin

In 2008, Mr. Joshua Blonski began teaching Latin, Religion, and Senior Symposium electives at a Catholic school in Upstate New York. In 2014, he and his wife Kate moved to the Twin Cities where he began teaching Latin and History at Providence Academy. Mr. Blonski entered into an administrative role at Providence Academy, serving as the Assistant Middle School Director ('16-'17) and then the Upper School Dean of Students ('17-'22). He is excited to continue in his commitment to Catholic education at Saint Agnes. Mr. Blonski holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a minor in Psychology from Syracuse University and an M.A. in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of St. Thomas. The Blonski family lives in Brooklyn Park, where Josh and his wife, Kate, are proud parents of future Aggies: Sybil (7 years old), Evelyn (4), and William (2). We're excited for Mr. Blonski and his

children to join us this fall at Saint Agnes School!

Mr. Peter Foley – Upper School Math & Science

Mr. Peter Foley is an alumnus of Saint Agnes High School and the University of Mary where he earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics education. He served as a missionary with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students for three years before beginning his teaching career, and taught Math and Science at Chesterton Academy of the St. Croix Valley for two years. Peter married fellow Aggie alumnus Natalia in 2018, and they have three children. *"I graduated from Saint Agnes High School in 2013 with the hope of returning someday to teach. My teachers provided a high school experience that set a firm foundation of faith and reason, and a desire to grow in both areas of my life moving forward. They taught much more than just the content of each course, which is model that I aim to exemplify in my own classroom."*



Ms. Emily Kling – 5th Grade Homeroom

Emily Kling earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Benedict, where she studied Theology. After graduating in 2021, she taught Theology in Cincinnati, OH as a Seton Teaching Fellow. Originally, Emily is from a rural town in the Diocese of Superior, WI, but she looks forward to creating a home in the city of St. Paul. Above all, Emily is eager to begin teaching fifth grade and to make many fond memories with the students, families, and staff of Saint Agnes School! *"I believe that my teaching experience, alignment with the education model of Saint Agnes School, and desire to endorse the irreducible fullness of Truth in the Catholic Church make me an ideal candidate to promote Saint Agnes' mission: to form the whole child in an academically rigorous and Christ-centered education. As a Catholic educator, I am committed to developing the intellect, forming the character, and engaging the faith of each student entrusted to my care."*

Mr. Dominic Shovelain – Upper School Theology

Mr. Shovelain began serving at Saint Agnes as a long-term substitute teacher and coach in 2021. Mr. Shovelain attended Saint John Vianney College Seminary at the University of Saint Thomas during college where he majored in Philosophy and Catholic Studies. After college, he discerned a call to teaching and entered ACE the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame where he earned a Master's degree and served as a High School Theology teacher in Tucson, AZ. Mr. Shovelain also has experience working in healthcare and agriculture. Mr. Shovelain, his wife Katherine, and their children are parishioners of Saint John the Baptist in New Brighton. *"I want to teach at Saint Agnes School because I believe that Catholic education, rooted in faith and reason, allows students to encounter Christ and his Church in everlasting ways. I know that clear thinking and character formation is a solid foundation for grace to work in the lives of young people. Saint Agnes is a place where the reality of cooperation between faith and reason is evident through coursework, apologetics and worship."*



Sr. Gianna Marie, O.P. (Mission Superior) – 6th Grade Homeroom

Sr. Gianna Marie was born in Santa Rosa, California, and spent her childhood moving around the Midwest and then back to California. She entered the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in 2008. Sister has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University and is currently working on her master's degree in theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia during the summers. She has elementary and middle school level teaching experience at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School in St. Clair Shores, Michigan; Spiritus Sanctus Academy in Plymouth, Michigan; and St. Michael the Archangel in Findlay, Ohio. She also served in the community's Mission Advancement Office as database assistant and spent two years in Rome acting as librarian for the Pontifical North American College. *"I distinctly remember*

the dinner several years ago when Mother Assumpta told us about her first visit to St. Agnes. She spoke so highly of the beautiful liturgies, the dedicated and well-formed staff, and the supportive families. I would have never imagined that I would have the pleasure and the privilege to be sent to teach at St. Agnes one day! Catholic education has the distinct beauty – and challenge – of forming the whole person: academically, emotionally, physically, theologically, and spiritually. This venture can only be done well through the dedication and the unity of the parents, staff, and faculty of a Catholic school. I am so excited to begin this adventure with you of forming souls in the rich Catholic and academic tradition and of assisting young minds and hearts to be the saints of the future."

Sr. Mary Martha, O.P. – 4th Grade Homeroom

Sister Mary Martha was raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and entered the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in 2010. She has a bachelor's degree in education from Louisiana State University. She has elementary and middle school level teaching experience at Rhodora J. Donahue Academy in Ave Maria, Florida; St. Jude Catholic School in Peoria, Illinois; and Spiritus Sanctus Academy in Plymouth, Michigan. She studied master's level theology for a year at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum) in Rome. She also has written for the Dominican Sisters' Openlight Media products and writes regularly for detroitcatholic.com. *"For me as a Dominican, teaching is ultimately about the salvation of souls – my own soul, the souls of my coworkers, the souls of my students and their parents and all those they will encounter later in life. It is a matter of sharing the 'seed' of the Gospel, so that God Himself can scatter it and cause the growth in His beloved children. I am excited to join St. Agnes School with the beautiful environment we provide here for students to pursue the truth and to find that Christ Himself is the truth we seek in all things."*





Sr. Simeon Marie, O.P. – Upper School History

Sr. Simeon Marie grew up in Annapolis, MD and is the fifth oldest of twelve children. She graduated from Christendom College with a degree in philosophy and then worked as a teacher's aide at an elementary school for several years before entering the convent. After entrance, she studied Secondary Education Social Studies: History at Eastern Michigan University. She made her first profession of vows in 2018 and is so grateful for this opportunity to teach at St Agnes School. *"I am so grateful for the opportunity to be teaching History at St. Agnes this coming year. As Dr. Warren Carroll, the founder of my alma mater, used to say, "Truth exists. The Incarnation happened." I am looking forward to following in his footsteps and teaching from an authentically Catholic perspective that faces events of our past honestly and fearlessly, recognizing God as the author of all human history."*

Ms. Anne Walsh – 1st Grade Homeroom

Anne Walsh earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of St. Thomas in 2019 and went on to teach 1st Grade as a long-term substitute here at Saint Agnes, where she quickly fell in love with its faith-filled community of saints-in-the-making. Over the next two years, she enjoyed teaching 2nd Grade at Faithful Shepherd Catholic School and 1st Grade at St. Thomas More Catholic School. While at St. Thomas More, she also taught sacramental preparation classes through the parish. Ms. Walsh is absolutely elated to return "home" to Saint Agnes School to teach 2nd Grade! *"As a practicing Catholic, teaching is more than just a job to me; it is a call to help little saints-in-the-making to grow in both virtue and academics. My own religious education has ignited in me the unique mission and vision of cultivating little souls not only in mind and body, but also in spirit, seeking to bring to life the joys, curiosities, and interests of each individual learner."*



Mrs. Jolene Schmitz – Guidance Counselor

Jolene Schmitz, a St. Paul native and an alumna of Saint Agnes School, earned her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics with a minor in Human Life Issues from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Right after college in the late 1990's, she taught math and science at Saint Agnes in the high school. While raising her seven kids, Mrs. Schmitz has a diverse array of experience from founding and owning her own stationary company, directing a summer youth camp, coaching volleyball, and teaching natural family planning. In 2020, Mrs. Schmitz began a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Divine Mercy University located in Virginia and will complete the program this month. She currently has four children at Saint Agnes School and is excited to support our students' various needs as our new Guidance Counselor!

Dr. Bernard Carpenter – *Upper School History* (LT Sub for Mrs. Dumas)

Bernard Carpenter was born and raised in England, before emigrating to the United States in 1983. He has a passion for the arts and the humanities, most especially history, and welcomes any opportunity to share his passion with, and impart his knowledge to, young people. During his long teaching career, he has taught at a wide variety of academic institutions—private and state universities, junior colleges, and Catholic college preparatory schools, most recently Providence Academy and Saint Thomas Academy. He received his PhD in Modern European History from Boston College and is currently teaching at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of Saint Thomas. His wife, Nancee, whom he met in Salzburg, Austria, is a native of Minneapolis.



Mr. Sam Reasoner – *Director of Maintenance*

We are blessed to have Sam Reasoner on board. He brings a wealth of experience in his 20 plus years in maintenance and facilities management. Sam has worked recently for the City of Woodbury, Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD), and Normandale College. Sam, his wife Michelle, and their kids live near Lake Phalen. Let’s give Sam a warm Aggie welcome – please also thank him and the Maintenance Team for all their hard work to prepare the school in time for workshop week!



Forming Catholic Hearts & Minds

in Faith, Reason, & Virtue