

**"Lead Me Lord"****Dear Parents,**

Welcome to a brand new school year. I am so excited about the upcoming school year. We've had several staff changes for this school year. Please help give these new staff members a warm welcome.

Erin Mann is our new middle school language arts teacher. Erin earned her Master of Arts in teaching from Oakland City University. Erin spent last year as our second grade teacher. Erin and her family are St. Mary's parishioners, and her children attend SMS. As a St. Mary's graduate, Erin finds it both an honor and a privilege to help continue the school's tradition of excellence.

We have been fortunate enough to add Spanish to our curriculum this year for students in PreK-8. Mrs. Priscilla Livermore will be our Spanish teacher. Her family moved to Mt. Carmel last spring, and her son Gabriel will be a third grader at St. Mary's. Mrs. Livermore is a native Spanish speaker from Costa Rica. We are very excited to have her as part of our staff.

Mr. Dillon Farmer will be teaching P.E. for us this year. Mr. Farmer is the husband of our beloved first grade teacher, Mrs. Farmer. Mr. Farmer has recently left a position at Toyota to start a home fitness business. He is a certified personal trainer through National Academy of Sports Medicine. We are very fortunate to have him as part of our staff this school year.

Becky Pyatt, our RTI teacher, will be subbing for Ms. Zwilling until her return sometime in October. Mrs. Pyatt has 17 years teaching experience as a 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and classroom instructional coach. As our RTI teacher she did quite a bit of guided reading work with the incoming second graders. Her children Carter and Cate are both students at St. Mary's. We are very fortunate that she is able to fill this vacancy for us.

Amanda Debault will be assisting Mrs. Porter in the kitchen full time this year. Mrs. Debault also drives a bus for District 348. Both her daughters are students at St. Mary's. We are glad to have her assistance in the kitchen this year.

Our theme for this year is "Lead Me Lord". The teachers will be talking a lot about our theme in their classrooms. We will also begin a new program that you will be hearing a lot about called Virtue Based Restorative Discipline. We will be focusing on the virtues in our daily lives. The virtue the staff has chosen to focus on daily is thankfulness. You will be hearing a lot about this virtue from your children. Any reinforcement you can do at home would be appreciated.

On your registration cards this year we asked for your email addresses. I will be using our School Messenger program more this year than in the past. I will be emailing and or texting you reminders periodically. If you would like to add any additional emails to receive these updates, please let Mrs. Gognat know, and we can easily add them to our system.

Open House has been scheduled for September 6 from 5-7. Please come and visit with your child's teacher(s) and enjoy the fellowship with the other St. Mary's families. Also Grandparent's Day has been scheduled for September 21 beginning with Mass at 8:00 AM.

If there is anything I can do, please don't hesitate to let me know.

*Mrs. Brogan*