



Dear Middle School Student,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer vacation, enjoying time with your family and friends, and having some new and memorable experiences. Even though school is several weeks away, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and officially welcome you to Middle School.

**Middle School Teachers:**

**Mr. Andy Zengel (8th Grade Religion and Principal):** I'm excited to spend time with this 8th Grade as we learn more about God's plan for salvation. It is my sincere hope that by studying the Church's teachings and the Holy Scriptures, each of us will grow to know our Lord better and to better know His plan for our lives. I will expect a lot of my students and I promise I will be ready to help you lead our school in Holiness as a Way of Life. Be assured of my prayers for you - enjoy the rest of your summer!

**Mrs. Krueger (Middle School Director; Literature and Grammar 6):** This is the start of my 26th year at Saint Joseph School. This will mark my fourth year serving as the Director of Middle School. I feel very blessed to be a part of such an amazing middle school. I look forward to helping you grow this year in middle school. This summer I have been busy with my daughters Caroline and Kayla. We have spent time at the lake and in the gym playing basketball and volleyball. It has been a wonderful summer and I am refreshed and looking forward to getting back to work and creating great memories for the school year 20223-2024!

**Mr. Aboumoussa (English 7, 8 and Religion 6,7, History 6, and Service Hours):** This is the start of my 16th year at Saint Joseph School, so you probably know my name even if you don't know how to spell it yet. Prior to teaching, I majored in English literature and language and minored in cinema studies in college. I have also studied Education and Catholic theology and history. I once worked in video production and editing as well. This summer, I'll be celebrating my 22nd wedding anniversary, spending time with my son, reading, watching movies, organizing our house, and maybe taking a trip with my family. I look forward to having you all in class this year.

**Mrs. Mitchell (Science 6,7,8/History 7,8):** This will be my third year teaching at Saint Joseph School. The last two years, I taught intermediate math and science classes. Prior to teaching at SJS, I taught various special education classes in middle school and high school in both Georgia and Utah, and I worked in a hospital lab in Idaho. This summer, I will be taking a trip to Florida with my daughter to visit my grandmother who is about to turn 99. After the Florida trip, we will be adding two kittens to the family. I look forward to having you in my science and/or history class!

**Mr. Whittingham (Mathematics):** This is the start of my 11th year at Saint Joseph School. I have three older brothers; one is a priest in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and one of them with two sons and another on the way is currently working near Oxford, England. This summer was spent catching up on my book list. I enjoy reading science fiction, fantasy, and philosophy books; playing or watching volleyball and soccer; and learning languages and history. I'm looking forward to a great year with you!

**Mrs. Cook (Math)** I am starting my 30th year as a teacher at St. Joseph's, and really enjoy teaching two of the middle school math classes. It gives me great joy to see students grow and improve in their math skills! One of my summer projects is to assist at the rummage sale that TN Right to Life holds every year at our school. It is always great to see some of our middle school students there volunteering for the Pro

Life cause as well as earning service hours. My children who are graduates of St. Joseph's are grown now, but this summer we all vacationed together and had a great time at the beach at Charleston. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

**Mrs. Kelley Griffin (Librarian & Middle School Teaching Assistant):** This is the start of my 8th year teaching at St. Joseph School, but as a parent...too many years to count! Four of my five sons have graduated from SJS, with only one middle schooler left. My love of reading started at a very young age and I get just as excited walking into a library today as I did when I was young. My summer consisted of reading, writing, kayaking, camping and sitting by the pool. I can't wait to start my third year as librarian with new projects, reading incentives and fun activities. . I can't wait to see you all in the fall!

### **Homeroom:**

In the middle school, you will have a homeroom that you will have at the very start and end of the day. During this time, students are expected to complete morning work for language arts courses, take attendance, lunch count, school upkeep duties, get organized for their day, organize homework, etc.

- **6th Grade Homeroom: Mr. Whittingham (Located in the Math Classroom)**
- **7th Grade Homeroom: Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Aboumoussa, and Mrs. Mitchell(Located in the Science Classroom)**
- **8th Grade Homeroom: Mrs. Krueger (Located in the Literature Classroom)**

We hope this year proves to be a great one for all of us, and we look forward to helping you learn, helping you become a better student, helping you grow spiritually, and helping you become better acquainted with the middle school culture and routine. To make it a great year, it will take hard work, responsibility, and diligence. We know you are capable of achieving your very best!

Our first opportunity to meet will be on **Thursday, August 3rd during our Supply Dropoff from 11-1** During that time you can tour our classroom, get your assigned locker, decorate and organize your locker, and bring in your school supplies. Your parents are asked to attend our Back to School Night that will be held on **Thursday, August 3rd beginning in the gym at 7:00 p.m.** Our official first day of the school year is **Monday, August 7th.** We will attend the Opening School Mass, and do many things to help you get oriented and settled into middle school. We have enclosed a supply list for this school year. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact our middle school director, Mrs. Krueger at [mkrueger@sjsknox.org](mailto:mkrueger@sjsknox.org). We hope you enjoy your vacation, and we look forward to meeting you in August and hearing how you spent your time this summer.

Sincerely,  
Your Middle School Teachers