

## Faculty

### Pre-Kindergarten

Christine Kupcho is in her 19<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at this Catholic School. She has taught in preschool, kindergarten, third and fourth grades. As an alumnus herself, and a parent of past graduates of St. Francis of Assisi School, she is completely committed to the quality of Catholic School education. She holds an associate degree from Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Early Childhood Education, she received her bachelor's degree from University of Connecticut with a focus in Psychology and has completed her master's degree in Reading & Language from the University of Saint Joseph.

Educational Statement: Throughout your child's first school year experience here at St. John Paul the Great Academy, the program will foster all aspects of their spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth. As a STREAM Academy educator, I will support the development of creativity and enthusiasm about learning within a nurturing and stimulating environment through discovery, exploration and questioning. Together with parents, St. John Paul the Great Academy is building a strong foundation for responsible, cooperative, and independent future learners.

Contact: [prek@sjptga.org](mailto:prek@sjptga.org)

### Kindergarten

Kelly Beyus has taught Kindergarten at St. John Paul the Great Academy since 2017. She has an undergraduate degree in English from Central Connecticut State University and her Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport. Mrs. Beyus has been certified since 2012 and has a minor in music. A lover of all things creative, she has been involved with the drama club at St. John Paul the Great Academy, taught dance for several years, and has three books published under the pseudonym Kay Bennson.

### Educational Statement:

Mrs. Beyus believes all her students are unique in their own way. Her goal is for her students to grow their skills and their confidence while in her classroom. Students should feel happy and safe while in her care, and that they can teach her just as much she can teach them.

Contact: [kindergarten@sjptga.org](mailto:kindergarten@sjptga.org)

### Lower Primary

Cathie Mastrogiovanni is in her 22<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching. She has taught third grade for seven years, first grade for ten years and she is very excited to be teaching Lower Primary for a fifth year. Mrs. Mastro graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a minor in Chemistry. She currently holds a teaching certificate with the State of Connecticut as well as a Master's Degree in Reading and Language Arts.

### Educational Statement:

Mrs. Mastrogiovanni enjoys engaging students in activities that stimulate and satisfy their spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional development. She feels it is so important to

recognize each student's individual needs, capabilities and interests in order to teach them accordingly.

Contact: [lowerprimary@sjptga.org](mailto:lowerprimary@sjptga.org)

### Upper Primary

Marilyn Hubert is the Upper Primary teacher at SJPTGA, teaching grades three and four. She attended the University of Connecticut and has a BS in Elementary Education and an MA in Education and is certified to teach grades PreK-grade 8. She has taught religion, math, language arts, English, social studies, and science to students in grades 2-8 for the last 35 years. Favorite experiences include guiding two students to dissect a shark, applauding children as they master long division, and watching students' faces as they share their faith.

### Educational Statement:

My role as a Catholic teacher is to challenge students to do their best, motivate them to learn as much as they can, invest confidence in them so that they feel proud of their accomplishments, and validate students as important, valuable, and loved as children of God.

Contact: [upperprimary@sjptga.org](mailto:upperprimary@sjptga.org)

### Intermediate

Mrs. Nypert attended The University of Saint Joseph where she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in elementary education. She has worked with children of all ages in both academic and recreational settings. She has been a classroom teacher since 2001, and has taught children in Kindergarten, and fourth through eighth grades. She is excited to continue her teaching journey at a Saint John Paul the Great Academy. When she is not in school, she enjoys spending time with her family.

### Educational Statement:

I have embraced the philosophy of educating the whole child. I have seen my students grow over the years and have gained confidence that they are ready for a career in the 21st century. In my classroom, you will hear and see collaboration, participation, but most of all, learning being done by all. You will witness empathy, partnership and kindness. I believe that all children are capable of success without any exceptions. I embrace their unique identities and learning styles and teach with an array of methodologies.

Contact: [Intermediate@sjptga.org](mailto:Intermediate@sjptga.org)

### Middle School

Mrs. Propfe received her Bachelor's Degree from CCSU. There, she majored in Elementary Education and minored in mathematics. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Computing and Technology from the University of Hartford. She is a certified teacher through the state of Connecticut (PreK - 8). She began teaching at what is now St. John Paul the Great Academy in August of 1998. At that time, Torrington was home to two catholic schools, St. Peter and St. Francis of Assisi. She first started teaching second grade at St. Peter School. She taught second, then fifth grade for seven years before the merger of the two schools. She has

been in this building ever since. She has taught Pre-K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades as well technology across all grade levels. She is a student of catholic education and a believer in catholic education.

Educational Statement: Here, at St. John Paul the Great Academy, we educate the whole child, spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally.

Contact: [middleschool@sjptga.org](mailto:middleschool@sjptga.org)

## Teacher Aides

### Pre-Kindergarten

Linda Arigoni is our Academy's Pre-K Teaching Assistant. She has a lengthy history with our school setting, in that her five older children are alumni. She greatly enjoyed being an involved parent, serving on the Home and School Association as well as the Sports Association. Mrs. Arigoni holds a Bachelor's Degree from UCONN and her focus studies include child and family psychology along with literature and multicultural studies.

### Lower Primary

Nicole Maccalous has been working in the education field for over 20 years in many different facets; ranging from preschool through middle school age. She holds an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and has recently returned to school to finish her teaching degree. She currently supports our Lower Primary class at SJPTGA and loves working with the students. She believes that all students are unique and need an environment that supports them so they can grow physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. She believes in offering a space where children can express their learning and faith; she strongly believes students should be pushed to use their brainpower and become critical thinkers.

### Upper Primary

Andrea Pincus currently holds a position as a Teacher's Aide in Mrs. Hubert's Upper Primary classroom, grades 3 and 4. She has held this position since August 2019. She shares that it is enjoyable and fulfilling to interact with the children and staff at the school. Every day brings new and exciting challenges...she thoroughly looks forward to them.

Her belief is to help students academically and emotionally succeed in school and everyday life. Ms. Pincus holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut. She graduated from Nonnewaug High School in May of 2015 and will be attending Sacred Heart University in August 2020 to pursue her degree in Master of Social Work.