

AUGUST 07, 2019



# St. John Catholic School

*Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parent/Volunteer Fingerprinting at School: Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7:30pm in the school**

ALL parents and volunteers MUST receive fingerprint clearance before being cleared to enter the school and/or volunteer around school children

**Parent Cyber Safety Presentation in the Gym: Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30pm**

One parent from each NEW school family is required to attend

**Labor Day: NO School on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Back-to-School Night: Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. in the church**

The moment you've all been waiting for...

Please join us in welcoming

**YOUR 2019 – 2020 ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF!!!**

### Transitional Kindergarten Teacher



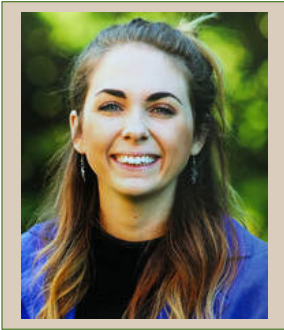
Mrs. Emily Martinez is so excited to be the transitional kindergarten teacher for the 2019-2020 school year! This will be her 2nd year working at St John. Last year, she served as the kindergarten instructional assistant. In 2006, Mrs. Martinez completed her Bachelor's degree in Child Development from Chico State University and has been working with children for over 15 years.

Mrs. Martinez is most excited to build relationships with the TK students and families. She is also excited to be teaching the youngest shamrocks because it is such a rewarding job. She learns from the children as much as they learn from her. She is so blessed to be apart of such a wonderful school

community.

Mrs. Martinez enjoys spending time with her husband and her 2 children, Idelle(7) and Emmett(4). During her free time, she likes watching the Warriors and the A's on TV, walking, baking, and going to Starbucks. Her hobbies include coloring, going to Target alone, and she is a Disney addict.

### Kindergarten Teacher



Ms. Shelby O'Neill graduated from Sonoma State University with a degree in English Education. Last year Shelby taught 4th grade, and prior to that taught kindergarten and coached 6th and 7th grade JV boys and girls soccer. Ms. O'Neill enjoys yoga and eating healthy and earned a yoga teacher certificate designed for educators who want to incorporate movement and mindfulness into the classroom. Ms. O'Neil is happy to be closer to her friends and family in the Bay Area and is so excited to be at St. John Catholic School this year teaching kindergarten!

### First Grade Teacher



Ms. Adriana DeVost has been working with young children in various capacities since she was in high school. After receiving her BA from Loyola University Chicago in International Studies and Sociology, she became a teaching assistant in kindergarten and first grade classrooms. It was this experience that cemented her desire to make teaching a career. She then worked toward her MA in Early Childhood Education from the Erikson Institute. For the past 7 years, Ms. DeVost has been teaching preschool and supporting students with their emergent academic skills and social emotional development. Last year, she worked as both the lead teacher and site director

at her preschool program. She has always wanted to transition into working with elementary age children and is so excited to take on the first grade teaching role at St. John next year. In her free time, Ms. DeVost enjoys hiking, reading, and playing in her Sunday soccer league.

### Second Grade Teacher



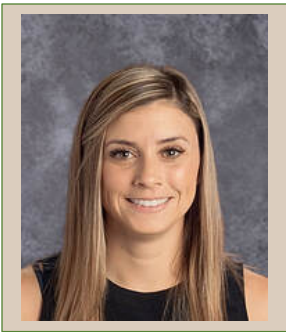
Mrs. Azenith Gracia Ramirez received her bachelor's degree from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City Philippines. She has worked in the education field for over 18 years, serving different roles as a classroom teacher, academic coordinator, and religious education coordinator. Her most recent post was in San Leandro at the Boys and Girls Club where she worked as a youth development coordinator. In her free time, she loves to watch movies, listen to music, travel to new places, and experience the different culture of other countries. Her bucket list includes visiting all the American states, catching the Northern Lights, and going on a safari adventure in Africa. Mrs. Ramirez is looking forward to being apart of the St. John community and integrally forming the students. She is most excited to help the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in their journey to prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

### Third Grade Teacher



Ms. Stephanie Pires received her BA at San Francisco State University in English Education with a concentration in Literature. Following earning her degree, she was an instructional assistant in the 4th grade class at St. Philip Neri Catholic School. She then received her teaching credential through CalState TEACH where she did her student teaching as a kindergarten instructional assistant at Corpus Christi Catholic School. This will be her fourth year as the 3rd grade teacher at St. John. During her free time, Ms. Pires likes to attend gym classes at All Steele Fitness, read, spend time with her friends and family, binge watch television shows on Netflix, and sharing her wide array of knowledge of Harry Potter facts. Ms. Pires is excited to continue teaching at St. John and interacting with the wonderful and supportive families!

### Fourth Grade Teacher



Mrs. Ashley Able graduated from San Jose State University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Development, while competing as a division 1 athlete in swimming. This year marks Mrs. Able's fifth year teaching fourth grade at St. John Catholic Elementary School and her sixth year in the Oakland Diocese. Prior to coming to St. John's, she worked at the YMCA after school program with kindergarten – fifth grade students. Currently, Mrs. Able is perusing her master's degree in Child Education. In her spare time she enjoys working out, traveling, and hanging out with her dog Kobe and her husband. Mrs. Able is excited to continue working at St. John for the opportunity to be apart of such a wonderful and supportive community.



### **Fifth Grade Teacher**



Mr. Zack Sherman is about to enter his fourth year teaching at St. John Catholic School. In his four years at SJCS, he has taught the fifth graders and has gotten them ready to make the transition into middle school. He studied History and Education at Humboldt State University, and has been working with youth programs dating back thirteen years. Some programs that Mr. Sherman worked with are youth groups and summer camps. Most recently, Mr. Sherman has been working with a summer camp for foster care children. In Mr. Sherman's free time he is usually in the mountains with his dog, fishing or hiking. Something Mr. Sherman is looking forward to is getting back to what he enjoys, teaching his students at St. John and helping them grow into young adults.

### **Sixth Grade Homeroom & Junior High Math & Science Teacher**



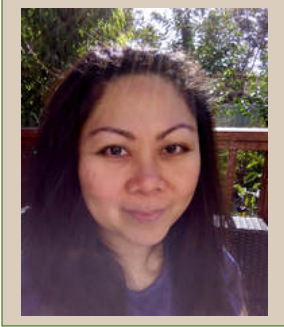
Mr. Jim Hay studied engineering and economics at UC Davis. He continued his education, earning a Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering at Santa Clara University, a Masters of Arts in Economics at UC Santa Cruz, and finally pursued a Teaching Credential at Santa Clara University. Prior to entering the field of education, Mr. Hay worked in the nuclear, aerospace, and semiconductor industries as a design, development, and new products engineer. Desiring a change of pace and wanting to give back and work with students, Mr. Hay veered from his prior occupational track and began his teaching career. He has spent the last six years teaching sixth through eleventh grade students in mathematics, science, and robotics, as well as moderating after school robotics and speech & debate programs. In his personal time, he enjoys reading, hiking, and taking nature trips. Additionally, he has been working on a multi-year project developing a piece of property in the Sierra foothills, which has involved much landscaping. Mr. Hay looks very forward to teaching in a Catholic school where developing students as people is as important as their academic work.

### **Seventh Grade Homeroom & Junior Reading/Lit. & Social Studies Teacher**



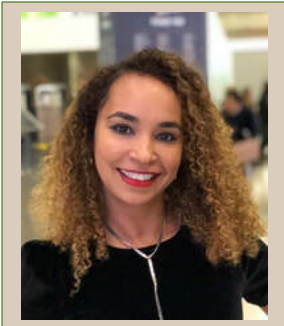
Ms. Dominique Thomasson has worked at St. John for a little over four years, in various roles. She is currently the seventh grade homeroom, 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading/Lit, and middle school Social Studies teacher. Ms. Thomasson earned her Bachelor's degree in Visual Studies from the University of the Pacific, and her Master's degree in Teaching, with a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Humphreys University. She loves to travel, read, and draw in her spare time. Ms. Thomasson is excited to continue working with students and families. If you would like to contact her, she can be emailed at [dthomasson@cndo.org](mailto:dthomasson@cndo.org).

### **Eighth Grade Homeroom & Junior High ELA/Writing & Reading/Lit. Teacher**



Ms. Melissa Pasion received her bachelor's degree from UC Davis and later completed graduate programs at Penn State Harrisburg and John F. Kennedy University. She has been working in the field of education for over a decade and has worked with students in all K-12 grades. Although Ms. Pasion has taught various subjects, she most enjoys teaching different writing styles, including essays, scripts, research papers, timed writes, and personal statements for high school and college admissions. In her free time, Ms. Pasion likes to take on the occasional craft or DIY project; catch live stage performances; and let her slightly competitive nature come out when playing board games, computer games, and fantasy football. She is excited to join the St. John staff and community and is honored to return to the Oakland Diocese, where she started her own educational journey years ago.

### **Junior High Spanish Teacher**



Mrs. Viviana Green is a native Spanish speaker, born and raised in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, a port city of 100,000 residents on the north coast of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic was one of several islands Christopher Columbus visited on his first trip to the Caribbean. A first-generation college graduate, Mrs. Green earned a degree in Marketing from University O&M in Puerto Plata while working full-time in the hospitality and transportation industries.

In 2010, Mrs. Green immigrated to the United States in pursuit of a better life and more opportunities for her growing family. After working in the banking industry for a few years, she joined the education field, working with K-12 students with special needs in the Alameda Unified School District. When students learned she was bilingual, many expressed an interest in learning Spanish. This feedback convinced Mrs. Green to launch MLA Tutoring Service, an Oakland-based tutoring company providing Spanish lessons to students of all ages. After two years of tutoring, Mrs. Green wanted to touch a broader population of students than private tutoring sessions could offer. This objective ultimately led her to St. John, a nurturing environment where her passion for sharing her Native tongue can flourish on a larger scale. As Mrs. Green embarks on the next chapter of her teaching career, she is excited about joining the St. John community and teaching her students about Spanish language and culture. Mrs. Green lives in Oakland with her husband and three children. She enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling to the Dominican Republic every summer to ensure her children remain connected to their Dominican heritage.

### **Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Art & Junior High Religion Teacher**



Mrs. Emily Babcock earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with an emphasis in Photography from Cal State Hayward. She is an alumnus of St. John Catholic School and has been very involved in the parish ever since. She and her husband are parishioners at St. John and sent their three daughters to SJCS from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. After volunteering for many years, Mrs. Babcock began full time work as an instructional assistant in kindergarten in 2007 and began the junior high art program in 2009. She now teaches junior high religion, and expanded the art program to teach kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mrs. Babcock enjoys

spending time with her family, watching movies, cooking, and volunteering her time as board member for the St. John's Athletic Association.

### **Transitional Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Physical Education Teacher**



Coach Joe Thomas is the physical education teacher at St. John. He has had this position since 2012 but has been involved with St John Athletic Association since 2002. Coach Joe has had a lot of success coaching boys and girls basketball at St. John. He has taken 6 different teams to a total of 15 Oakland Diocese Championships where his teams came away with 10 championships. He also started "Little Shamrocks Basketball" through which he and his volunteers instruct 3-7-year olds in basketball. When he is not teaching or coaching at St John, he also coaches men's basketball at Bishop O'Dowd High school. Coach Joe and his family are true shamrocks

with having 2 of their children graduating from St. John and his daughter currently working at St. John Catholic School.

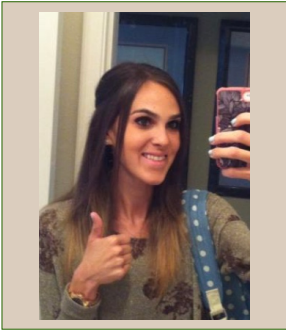
### **Transitional Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Music Teacher & Choir Moderator**



Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Mr. Gregory Rathje earned his Masters of Music in Composition at Mannes College, The New School for Music, studying under the guidance of David Tcimpidis. He completed his Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance and Composition at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), graduating with High Honors from UCSB and Distinction in the major. At UCSB, Mr. Rathje studied Viola Performance with Professor Helen Callus and Composition with Professors Joel Feigin and Jeremy Haladyna. His studies culminated in May 2015 with an original viola composition for Professor Callus performed by her with

Young People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO) under the baton of Maestro David Ramadanoff. Living in the East Bay, Mr. Rathje leads and assists in the music ministry with the multiple choirs in different churches, performing on violin, viola and piano. During his free time Mr. Rathje can be found biking, swimming, practicing yoga, creating music with friends and family, and attending mass. Gregory is very excited to return for his third year to St. John Catholic School to teach music and lead the music ministry for the student masses.

### Student Counselor



Ms. Amy Bucker attended Saint Mary's College of California where she earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology followed by her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Ms. Bucker has been in the role of school counselor for the past three years in the Oakland Diocese. Prior to her work in the Diocese, Ms. Bucker co-facilitated support groups for children going through chemotherapy and provided support to their parents and caregivers. She has a great passion for helping children who are facing difficult situations and feelings. Her empathetic, nonjudgmental, and warm approach has made many positive differences for the children with whom she works.

In Ms. Bucker's free time, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends. Ms. Bucker is so looking forward to another year as a member of the St. John family. She looks forward to getting to know the new students and grow further relations with the former students.

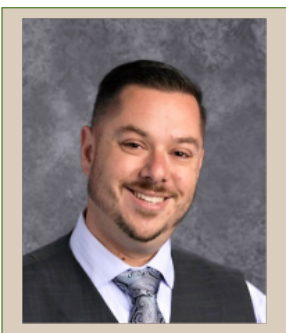
### Learning Support Coordinator & Instructional Coach



Mrs. Kristen Elliott started her college education at California State University, Hayward and earned her BS in Marketing. She then went on to earn her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and Masters in Education at the University of San Francisco. Mrs. Elliott has worked at St. John Catholic School for over 14 years- serving in different roles, from that of an office assistant, instructional assistant, 2nd grade teacher and for the past 3 years, Learning Support Coordinator. In her personal time, Mrs. Elliott enjoys coaching cheerleading and spending time with her family. Mrs. Elliott is an alumnus of St. John Catholic School and is proud to be part of the shamrock

family. She loves seeing students learn and grow over the years and appreciates the traditions SJCS has to offer.

### Director of Technology & Mission Advancement

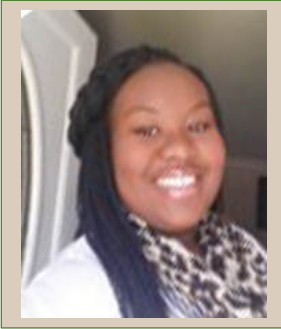


Mr. Daniel Enos graduated from Silicon Valley College with a degree in Graphic Design. Mr. Enos previously worked in the medical-technology industry for over 13 years where his focus was on leadership, team building, information technology, and learning & development. His experience made for a seamless transition when he moved into the education field in 2012. Mr. Enos has been with St. John since 2013 and has held many different titles ranging from PK – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Teacher, 7<sup>th</sup> Religion Teacher, to Director of Technology & Mission Advancement. His favorite part of working at St. John is having the opportunity to build relationships with so

many people and having the ability to collaborate with many of the ministries in which he has volunteered his time. In his spare time Mr. Enos enjoys walking at the San Leandro Marina, listening to musing (mostly Country), going to the movies and spending time with his family.



### **Transitional Kindergarten Instructional Assistant**



Ms. Everlina Dancy is a Bay Area native who graduated from Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School, where she learned to be a lifelong learner. She then attended Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. Upon her return to California, she attended Chabot College where she earned her Associate Teacher certificate and permit. Ms. Dancy has taught preschool and served last year in the St. John PreK and school office.

She is currently in her senior year at Holy Names University, pursuing a degree in Psychology. As her time at HNU comes to end, she plans to further her education by attending graduate school in pursuit of a Masters in

School Counseling. Ms. Dancy is so excited to be re-join the St. John shamrock family, supporting students in TK as the TK instructional assistant!

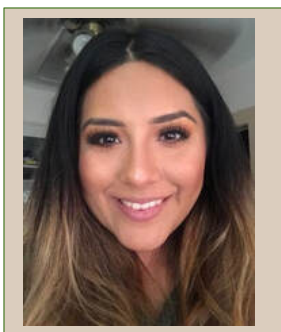
### **Kindergarten & First Grade Instructional Assistant**



Mrs. Caitlin Gardner is an Oakland Diocese alumna with shamrock roots planted here at our very own St. John Catholic School. After attending St. John and St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, she graduated from California State University East Bay with her bachelor's degree in Theater Arts. Mrs. Gardner spent four years directing and choreographing children's theater productions for an East Bay nonprofit organization— Tomorrow Youth Repertory. This last year, however, she spent at home with her firstborn daughter, Jamie. Mrs. Gardner loves being outdoors with her dogs, taking yoga and dance classes and supporting the Bay Area's plentiful

performance offerings. Mrs. Gardner is so excited to be joining us as the kindergarten and first grade instructional assistant, and to bring her enthusiasm for helping students learn and grow to the St. John community, which she calls home.

### **Second Grade Instructional Assistant & SEP Teacher**

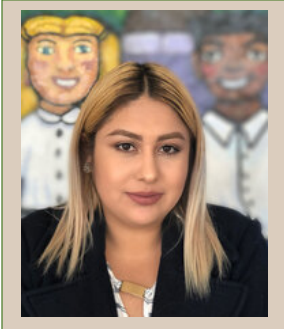


Ms. Devony Cota is currently attending Chabot College and plans to transfer to Cal State East Bay. She is pursuing a double major in business management and art, as well as working towards earning a minor in early child development. Ms. Cota is not a stranger to St. John, as she has worked at SJCS before, helping with the after school SEP program, supporting our school office staff, as well as serving as a Little Shamrock basketball coach. In her spare time, she loves to draw, paint and enjoys outdoor activities, as well as cuddling with her dog Buster. One of the things she is looking forward to this upcoming school year is working with the kids inside the

classroom, during school hours, and gaining new insight and skills that will provide her experience working with children from all ages and backgrounds.



### Secretary/Administrative Assistant & Lead SEP Teacher



Ms. Marlene Gutierrez started her college education at Berkeley Community College and then transferred to San Francisco State University where she is currently working on an Accelerated Bachelors and Master Degree in Human Development, with a minor in Education. Marlene has worked in the education field for over 5 years- serving in different roles, from that of an After School Lead Teacher to an Educational Program Manager. Her most recent role was an Administrative and Extended Care Coordinator for Galileo Summer Camps. In her personal time, Marlene enjoys being the coordinator of a youth group in her local parish and reading her favorite books in the Harry Potter series. Marlene has a passion for education and is passionate about trying to make a difference in the world. She is extremely excited to be joining the St. John Catholic School staff, as she knows that she will be part of delivering the school's mission.

### Office Manager & Bookkeeper



Ms. Aimee Sire graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Business Administration Marketing. During college and after graduation, she worked in the office of a country club in Oakland where she took on a variety of roles. In 2016, she returned to her alma mater by joining the St. John Catholic School team as the school secretary and has taken on a couple different roles since. In her time off, she enjoys crafting and spending time with family and friends. Ms. Sire is excited to continue her journey at St. John Catholic School as office manager and bookkeeper and see what new adventures this year has to offer.

### Principal



Ms. Paige Child was raised in California's central valley and has attended or served in a Catholic school since first grade. She ventured to the bay area to attend St. Mary's College of California where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal and Civic Studies, Multiple Subject California Teaching Credential and completed Master's units in Teaching. Years later, after working in the education field for approximately 8 years, Ms. Child entered into an Administrative Credential program in Educational Leadership and earned an Administrative Credential and Masters in Educational Administration in 2016.

Since hired at SJCS in 2007, Ms. Child has taught kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, served as vice principal and has led the school as the principal since 2016. She is dedicated to and finds great comfort and joy in the shamrock community. Although the role of principal is not one that was her goal as a child, it is one that has strengthened her mind and will, and ignited an even deeper sense of responsibility and purpose.

Ms. Child enjoys spending time walking through local farmers markets, attending Giants games and country concerts, leaving town for beach and lake trips, wine tasting, and watching most sports. Ms. Child loves to play card games, dice games, bocce, and lawn games such as kubb and cornhole. She appreciates days spent with friends and family, including that of her extended St. John family!