

July 12, 2021

Dear St. Patrick's School Community,

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new principal of St. Patrick's School and to join this extraordinary faith filled school community. I hope that this note finds you enjoying the rejuvenating days of summer and that you and your children are looking forward to beginning a wonderful school year together in August. I can assure you that I share in this school community's commitment to caring for your children each and every day. I hope to be a role model and inspire others to know and understand that we are rooted in the love of Jesus, we are called to care for each other, that we are responsible and respectful, and that we always look for God in everything around us.

A Catholic education is one of the best gifts we can give our children. I want you to know that not only will your children receive an outstanding education, more importantly, they will learn about their faith, pray often, practice self-discipline, and learn to put others needs above their own.

I arrive to St. Patrick's as a seasoned elementary teacher, this will be my first year as a principal. In addition to my role as an educator, I am first and foremost a mother and wife. In August, my daughter Grace begins her freshman year at Ave Maria University in southern Florida, my son Gavin begins his junior year at St. Mary's Colgan High School, and my youngest son Jackson begins his 6th grade year at St. Mary's Elementary. My husband Tim and I just celebrated our 20th anniversary in May. We were blessed to have been married here at St. Patrick's. Tim works for Crossland Construction as a Superintendent. I look forward to introducing my family to the many wonderful people that call St. Patrick's "home" in the near future.

The 2021-2022 school year will mark my 18th year in education. Since graduating from Pittsburg State University, I have served four different communities. I started my teaching career in 1st grade in Galena, KS. I taught there for seven years before accepting a position at St. Mary's Elementary as a 1st grade teacher. I taught at St. Mary's for three years before relocating to Spring Hill, KS. for my husband's company. In Spring Hill, I taught 6th grade social studies while coaching middle school girls' volleyball and basketball. Three years ago, we had the opportunity to move back to Pittsburg to be closer to family. When we moved back, I started teaching 6th grade in Baxter Springs. Although I have always felt at home in the classroom, I look forward to taking the next step as a principal. The principalship provides me the chance to work collaboratively with teachers on a daily basis, while also remaining connected to my students, learning and growing in the classroom. I firmly believe that every child can excel. The partnership between home and school builds confidence in students to use their powers to shape their future and the future of our community, parish and our nation.

My conversations with staff and families over the last few months have brought me privileged insights into the core beliefs and values that underlie our school community. With my goal of continuing the tradition of excellence here at St Patrick's School, I am committed to always exploring new ways to meet the needs of all students and to more effectively communicate with parents and community members. Our first "Meet and Greet" opportunity will take place on July 21st, with an Ice Cream Social from 5:45-6:30 p.m. in the school gym. We will also be hosting a meeting that evening for new families and incoming kindergarten parents beginning at 5 p.m. School Belles will be here from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for uniform orders. I hope to see you all there!

To our students, I cannot wait to meet you all! I hope that you are excited for this coming school year and that you are out this summer playing and reading tons of books with your family and friends. It is going to be a fun year learning together.

In closing, please know that my door is always open to you. I will be keeping you all in my prayers and I ask that you do the same for me. I heartily welcome your conversation and positive input throughout this year. I look forward to celebrating our collective successes during the 2021-2022 school year.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

God Bless,

Mrs. Autumn Carson
Principal
St. Patrick's School

Incoming PreK & Kindergarten/New Families:

Please join us on **July 21st at 5:00pm** in the St. Pat's Gym for a quick **WELCOME** meeting and Ice Cream Social to follow (non-dairy Popsicles will be available also)!

Our current uniform supplier, School Belles, will be here for sizing/orders & our free/used uniforms will be available to go through as well.

We can't wait to meet you all and answer any questions you may have to make this a *fantastic* school year!