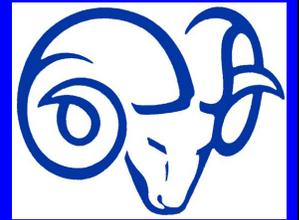




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*September 20, 2017*

*Fr. Kyle Berens, Priest/Superintendent...Shawn Augustine, Principal*

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*Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic Schools' Newsletter published by the High School Mass Communication Class. The Newsletter will be published several times a year with our purpose to inform you concerning personnel, students and events at St. Xavier Catholic School.*

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## **Fr. Kyle Brings Many Experiences to Saint Xavier**



Fr. Kyle attended Creighton University and earned a BS in Biology. He went on to attend Kenrick Glennon Seminary where he earned a BA in Philosophy, a MA in Theology, and a Masters in Divinity. He also has a Bioethics Certificate from the National Catholic Bioethics Center and is working on an MS in Bioethics through the University of Mary.

Fr. Kyle has one brother and one niece. His parents both came from big families, so Fr. Kyle has a number of first cousins and hundreds of second cousins.

Fr. Kyle likes to read fantasy novels, especially author Tolkien, and he plays pick up sports when possible (frisbee, soccer, volleyball, etc.). He also likes to cook.

Fr. Kyle was adopted at birth and fed with an eyedropper because he was so premature. Fr. Kyle went to one year of Medical School at KU before entering the Seminary. He has been to Rome three times, hiked part of the Camino de Santiago, and spent 7 weeks in Europe on a backpacking trip where Fr. Kyle had no plans except to have fun doing God's will.

Advice from Fr. Kyle is “don't let the world define what is good for you . . . seek Christ and the freedom that He offers and you will find true joy and happiness in this life and in the life to come.”

Fr. Kyle hopes to run with the Cross Country team. He is looking forward to just popping in on different sports practices and games.

Fr. Kyle is looking forward to seeing all the little ways in which God is working and will continue to work at St. Xavier! –Vasco M.

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## **Saint Xavier Welcomes Grade 2 Teacher**



Loves to play board games.  
Watches Netflix in her free time. Zumba is something she is proud to call a hobby. The Grade 2 Teacher, Mrs. Julia Eley, is joining the St. Xavier staff. Coming here after finishing college, Mrs. Eley is ready to become one of the Rams' Family and a proud Saint Xavier Teacher.

Maple syrup, kind people and red leaves; yes, you guessed it. Our very own Mrs. Eley is from Canada along with the rest of her family. Graduating from the University of Prince Edward Island with her BA and the University of Maine at Presque Isle with a Bachelor Liberal Studies Degree, Mrs. Eley has come to Saint X to share her teaching skills.

She comes from a large family of 5 sisters and 2 brothers! She arrived at our school wishing all of our students here at Saint X a great year and wanting all of us to give it our best! Although she isn't sponsoring any extracurricular activities this year, she is excited to watch all of the Rams grow spiritually and mentally this school year. –Tamia S.

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## **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish . . . 150 Years of Existence**

August 11, 2017, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish celebrated its 150 years of existence as a Parish. After a special Mass, a celebration dinner was held at the Geary County Convention Center. Bishop Wisenburger, along with several former priests and the current priest, participated in the celebration. Bishop Wisenburger was the main celebrator.



Fr. Kyle Berens, the 16<sup>th</sup> pastor of the parish, acknowledged the history of the Church motivates him to do the best he can for the parish.

Church officials prepared a slideshow of the Parish's historical milestones for the parishioners to see and reflect on.

Through the years, the Parish has experienced many challenges. In the past two years, the Parish held a capital campaign and raised almost \$1 million in funds. These funds will be used to renovate the front of the church with new steps and updated landscaping to help the church look more inviting. –Chloe A.

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## **Mrs. Donlin Is Ready to See What This Year Has in Store**

Mrs. Donlin earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Georgia. She is currently finishing her Masters in Secondary Education through Slippery Rock University, PA. She was born in Phoenix, AZ; her father was in the Navy, so she lived in many different states during her childhood.

She always made sure to find something good about her new homes and she had great memories of them when she left. Her parents retired to Nevada and she has two sisters: one lives in Rhode Island, and the other lives in California. In her

spare time, she enjoys basic woodworking; she has built several large, simple pieces of furniture for her friends and family.



She enjoys traveling and reading, along with a little bit of sewing from time to time. Some interesting facts about her are that she has lived in 12 different states and 18 different cities, altogether she has had 20 different addresses in her life. She loves to go target shooting, and she believes she is pretty good at it; however, her shooting accuracy hasn't transferred over into sports like basketball.

Her advice to the students is to learn the value of good notes and self-quizzing, to get better at prioritizing, and to draw on their own spiritual strengths during the hard times. She is most excited to share the excitement of scientific discovery with her students. She is also the Grade 7 class sponsor. –Jalyn D.

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## Ms. Thompson Leading Ram Spirit



We are proud of our RAM cheerleaders. They are lead by Ms. Thompson. The members of the cheer squad are Lexi Pittman, Teresa Balderrama, Chloe Alera, Ashley Dyer, Tamia Stamper, Celeste Pittman, and Joanna Craig.

Some of the goals the cheer team would like to accomplish this year are to improve school spirit, continue to promote positivity and energy through academics and activities, and form closer bonds with each other.

This summer the cheer team attended a week long Cheer Camp at Kansas Wesleyan University and learned three new cheers and a dance routine. They also learned new team building activities. Recently they attended a Spirit Spreader

event, also at Kansas Wesleyan University, where they learned two new cheers, stunting techniques, and a new dance.

The first pep rally was September 5. They performed 3 new cheers and a new dance they learned this summer at camp! The new official mascot for this year is Cesar Robles. He will attend all home and away games with the cheer squad.

The cheer team is very excited to continue to spread positive energy in the classroom and on the court this year! –Ashley D.

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## **The Chess Master and Math Teacher**



Our new math teacher, Mr. Becker, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree at Kansas State University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophical and theological studies at Conception Seminary College.

In his family background, he's the older of two children with one younger sister. What Mr. Becker does in his spare time is read, watch or play sports, play trivia, cook, and play board games.

Some interesting facts about Mr. Becker are that he has donated hair to charity twice, he was on a state champion team in Scholars Bowl two times, and he is partially color blind.

Advice that Mr. Becker would give to the students at St. Xavier is to be patient with me while I learn your names and to learn to cook before you graduate.

One of the things that Mr. Becker is looking forward to doing is working in a Catholic school and getting to know the Parish and school community.

Mr. Becker is sponsoring and helping with Scholars Bowl, Freshman Class, and, hopefully, Chess Club. –Dejohn W.

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## **Ms. Thompson Marches into Saint Xavier**

Abby Thompson is Saint Xavier's new band, choir, and elementary music teacher. Ms. Thompson is from Cimarron, KS, and was raised on a farm. Her mother is an English teacher, and her father teaches math and science.



Ms. Thompson attended Kansas State University and earned a Bachelor's in Music Education Degree.

Some of her favorite things to do in her free time are playing piano, guitar, or ukulele; she also reads, travels, and plays with her cat, Kevin. Some interesting facts about Ms. Thompson are she knows how to play every musical instrument and she has been to New Zealand.

Ms. Thompson's advice for students is "get involved, be yourself, and be kind!"

She is coaching cheer, and she is looking forward to knowing all her students.  
—Jacob B.

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## **Mrs. Cerna Loves to Dance and Teach Pre-K**



Mrs. Cerna is one of the Pre-K teachers. She earned a BA degree in Political Science from Trinity University in Washington, DC, as well as an MA in Elementary Education from St. Tomas University in Miami, FL. Mrs. Cerna's parents are from Honduras; she was born in Washington, DC. She lived there for 5 years then moved to the Silver Spring/Rockville, MD, area.

The hobbies she enjoys in her spare time include spending time her family, playing or watching soccer games, going camping, and traveling. Some interesting facts include the fact that she does not like to cook but "has to," and she loves to dance. She is also left handed.

The advice she would give to the students at St. Xavier is "to do your best and never give up no matter how hard things may seem!" Mrs. Cerna is looking forward to making sure that her students are excited to learn. She is helping out with box tops, PTO, and is open to anyone who needs help. —Joanna C.

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## Mr. Vinent is Ready for His New Role as Activities Director



Since Mr. Vinent is the new Activities Director, he has some new responsibilities including making sure the school's activity and athletic events are scheduled, staffed properly, and run as smooth as possible. He also assists in the fundraising.

Mr. Vinent is excited about his new position; but what he is really looking forward to is being able to be involved in some way with all of the school's activities and sporting events.

Mr. Vinent loves being able to interact with other coaches and officials from other schools; it is something he is familiar with

because he coaches summer basketball and gets to meet different coaches and officials.

Even though Mr. Vinent loves his new position, there are some challenges. One thing he may struggle with is time management and making sure he balances this new role along with his teaching role in the school. Planning properly and being on time is something he has struggled with in the past, and he looks forward to being able to fix those issues.

Mr. Vinent says that students can help bring more spirit into our activities and our school, and he says that there is a way to do that. He stated that if students willingly attend as many events as possible and bring positivity, it would help a great deal. He also said that we should take pride and to try our hardest to represent ourselves and our school if we participate in any school events.

As of right now, Mr. Vinent is not trying to bring any new ideas to the table; he is just trying to get used to the new role and to continue to try and keep everything going smoothly. When Mr. Vinent gets more comfortable with this new role, he will look to expand our activities program. Conner W.

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# St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery



Mr. Jones discussing topics in Current Events.



Preschool students enjoy learning new skills.



Taking a break with a snack.



Reading with a smile.



Finishing with gusto.



Selling ads for the yearbook.



Math students learning new angles in Math Class from Mr. Becker.



Too Cool for School—Total Eclipse of the Sun.



Getting stretched out for the cross country meet.



Just a little fun in the gym.



Conner W. and Jalyn D. taking pictures for the Saint Xavier Yearbook.



Coach Vinent getting the Saint Xavier students pumped at the pep rally.



The St. Xavier cross country team before their mile run.



Taco feed volunteers working hard to earn money for our activities.



Jacob B., Conner W., and Jioh P. working on assignments.



6th grade playing dodge ball in P.E. class.



Observing 9-11.



Volleyball ready to play!!



Band members learning to play new music selections.

**Educating the whole person—body, mind, & spirit—in Christian values in accordance with our Catholic faith tradition.**