



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
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September 1, 2021

Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai, Priest/Superintendent
Shawn Augustine, Principal

Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic School's 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.

St. Xavier Welcomes Pre-K Teacher to the Ramily



Mrs. Jamie Platt is excited to join St. Xavier Catholic School. She substituted for four years before joining us full time. This year she will be a Pre-K teacher. Mrs. Platt earned a Bachelor's in Child Development and Psychology in addition to a Master's in Education with Specialization in Child Development from Ashford University.

She grew up in a military family and moved all over the world. Her husband is in the military now. She was born in Hawaii and lived in Japan for three years.

In her spare time, she likes to complete DIY projects, garden, bake, and shop. She is always looking to find a good deal!

Her advice to students at St. Xavier is **never give up!** There is always something new to learn. She is looking forward to making a difference at St. Xavier this year.

We welcome Mrs. Platt to our school. –Mrs. Becker

Father G., Students, and Staff Participate in Blessing of the School



The students and staff of St. Xavier gathered under the leadership of Father G. and Mr. Augustine for prayers and a blessing of the school ceremony. After opening prayers, students were led in the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by a closing prayer.

Mr. Augustine accompanied Father G. as he blessed each room and area of the school. This ceremony was a very inspiring way to begin the school year. –Mrs. Becker

St. X Students Excited for Playground Improvements



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School has been planning to make some improvements to the playground, and has recently begun work on the project with the installation of a new basketball goal. This was made possible by the generosity of our school student council and donations to the playground development fund during our virtual auction last fall.

When students began school this year, they were excited to see a new basketball goal as they went out to recess. This is just one of several upgrades that need to be completed regarding playground development. Looking ahead, we also hope to repair the concrete in the playground area and to make improvements to the exterior gym wall that lines the playing field. These projects will improve the safety and aesthetics of the school playground and can only be accomplished with your continued prayers and generosity.

We appreciate all your support with the school playground as well as other parts of our campus. Thank you. –Mr. Augustine

Why is St Xavier's Mascot The Ram? Why Are Our Colors Royal Blue And Gold?



Our school emblem/mascot is the ram. It is a symbol of strength and determination. Our school colors are royal blue and gold. Royal blue is the traditional color reserved for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Gold symbolizes the kingship of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Blue and gold reminds our students of their reliance upon Mary and her Son. This reminder encourages them to be Marian and Christian in their attitudes and behavior at all times.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless us always.
—Ms. Robison

Mrs. Haines Very Excited to Join St Xavier Staff!



St. Xavier has the pleasure of welcoming an amazing 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Haines! Mrs. Haines is a loving mother of four current St. Xavier students; she was a part of shaping St. X last school year when she wore many different hats at our school.

Mrs. Haines graduated from the University of Missouri with two Bachelors Degrees--Elementary Teaching and Early Childhood. Mrs. Haines has taught several grade levels—third grade and lower--and also worked as a substitute. Mrs. Haines's most recent substituting positions were actually here at St. X in the 2020-2021 school year; so, although this is her first year teaching here, this isn't her first year as part of our Ramily.

Mrs. Haines is originally from Kearney, Missouri. In her spare time, Mrs. Haines likes to hang out with her family and to take pictures. To put these two activities together, Mrs. Haines started having "photoshoots" with her kids.

An interesting fact about Mrs. Haines is that she is half Greek. Their family will be welcoming a fifth child this year. When you talk with Mrs. Haines, you can understand that she has never met a stranger!

Mrs. Haines would love for every student at St. X to "Trust God because He's got you!" Mrs. Haines is looking forward to a growth in the Ramily this year, as many of the 2nd grade moms are also pregnant--the Ramily is going to grow rapidly.

As a new teacher here, Mrs. Haines is really excited to be teaching at St. X; she can't wait to see what the 2021-2022 school year will bring! —Casey S.



Mrs. Justin Ready to Counsel Our Ramily!

As the new year starts, there are many changes at St. X. One of the changes is a new counselor! Saint Xavier is very pleased and excited to introduce Mrs. Justin! Although

this will be her first year on staff, this is not her first year with St. X. Mrs. Justin has three children who have been attending here since the start of the 2020 school year.

Mrs. Justin has experience as a school social worker and brings her talent and experiences to St. X. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the College of Saint Benedict and received her Master's in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mrs. Justin is from Minnesota but has lived in Texas, Missouri, Wisconsin, and now Kansas.

An interesting fact about Mrs. Justin is that as a child, she was very active in bowling. Her high score is 257!

Advice she wants all at St. X to know is “Work hard and make meaningful connections, while also keeping Jesus at the center of your life.” Mrs. Justin is looking forward to getting to know everyone here and being a support to them if and when they need it.

Let's make sure to give Mrs. Justin a very warm welcome to our Ramily! – Casey S.

Using The Scientific Method To Learn About Ms. Serpan



Ms. Serpan will be joining the St. Xavier Ramily as the 7th-12th grade science teacher. She has a Bachelor of Science in Biology Education from Fort Hays State University. Ms. Serpan grew up in a tiny town called Timken, Kansas.

She is a convert to the Catholic faith and has taken part in Totus Tuus, mission trips Mexico and Focus conferences. In her spare time, she enjoys napping, reading, watching movies, and making her voice sound like an automated navigation system.

Ms. Serpan says students should pursue Christ first and all anxieties, fears, and joys will pale in comparison to his love that he waits to shower upon you. She is looking forward to the family atmosphere at our school and having the opportunity to invest her time into the people around her.

Ms. Serpan will be a great addition to our Ramily this year. –Jakob B.

Artistic Mrs. Coughlin Joins St. X Staff

Mrs. Coughlin is the new K-12th grade Art teacher. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone this year.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies with a specialization in Education and Art from Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. She

worked in the education department at the Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire. She later managed John Tucker Fine Arts, Savannah, Georgia, and Interior Designer Sally J. Davis. She continued painting with occasional commission work while raising her children and during her husband's career in the military.



After settling in Kansas, she started a cleaning and organizing business called "The Well-Kept Home." Flint Hills Christian School hired her to revamp their art program. She worked there teaching for 3 years. During that time, she earned a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University. After leaving FHCS, she taught 5 years at USD 475 Fort Riley Middle School. She resigned there to become St. Xavier's

art teacher!

Her hometown is a little southern New Hampshire town called Windham. She spent summers in a cottage on Plum Island, Massachusetts. She comes from a very ethnic family background. Her mother's ancestry is 1/2 Lebanese, 1/4 Italian and 1/4 Portuguese. Her grandmother was a Maronite Catholic; her parents fled Syria and Lebanon during the diaspora. She was raised in an Arabic bi-lingual household with each grandparent speaking their native tongue. You can imagine the delicious food she grew up with; she enjoys cooking family dishes. Her father's ancestry was English, Irish, and Swedish. He was a direct descendent of Mayflower Pilgrims Miles Standish, John Alden, and Priscilla Mullins; his roots in New England ran deep.

She likes to garden, cook, art, spend time with her family, read any historical fiction book, and watch movies in her spare time. She's a homebody!

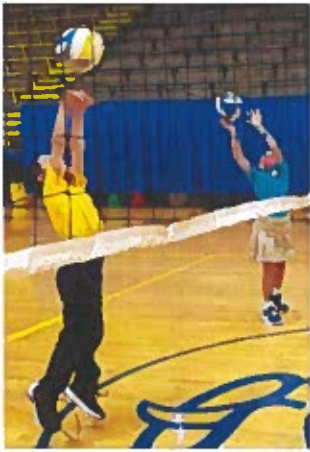
Some interesting facts about her are that she attended the 3rd oldest high school in the country--Pinkerton Academy. She grew up 5 minutes from Robert Frost's farm. She backpacked and hitchhiked through England and Ireland the summer after she graduated high school. She was the first American to complete the longest pilgrimage on foot in Germany. She had a dramatic healing and conversion experience in her early 20's. Mrs. Coughlin's been very religious since.

Some advice that she would give to students at St. Xavier is make the most of everyday doing for others and offering it to God our Father--all your sufferings, all your joys. Listen to Harvard professor Roy Schoeman's story. Pray the Rosary every day--even when you don't feel like it.

She's looking forward to getting to know everyone this school year.

–Clarissa O.

St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery



Practicing their volleyball skills.



Mrs. Platt and her student twinning!



Jakob B. taking pictures at the Watermelon Challenge.



The PE classes are always challenged with new activities!



Mrs. Justin helping a student.



Kindergarteners taking a quick break!

St. Francis Xavier—Pray For Us!



A favorite time for students--Mrs. Haines reading to the students.



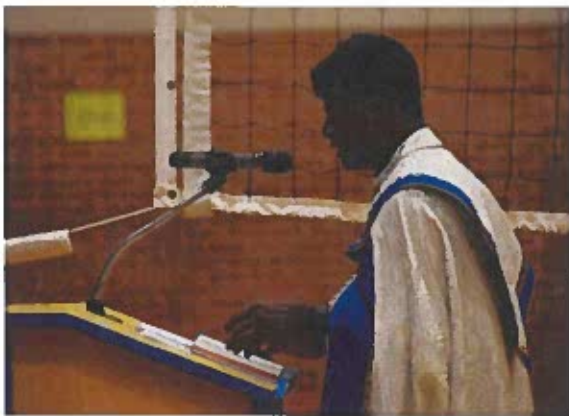
Percussionists playing new music.



The members of our Ram family are ready for Day 1.



PreK – 6th at the watermelon challenge --a STREAM project.



Father G. preparing to bless the school.



Mrs. Cerna helping a student with reading.

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**

September 2021

Religious Theme: The Lord's Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 *MAP Reading Assessments *Fall Sports Pictures *Individual Student Pictures *6:30pm- Sacrament Prep Meeting	2 *MAP Reading Assessments *7:45am- Prek-6 th Staff Meeting *8:20am- Class Meetings *3:00pm- CC Meet @ Tescott *4:30pm- MS & HS Volleyball @ Heritage	3 *MAP Reading Assessments *8:30am- School Mass & Adoration	4
	6 *No School- Labor Day	7 *MAP Math Assessments *4:00pm- MS & HS Volleyball @ Chief	8 *MAP Math Assessments *3:45pm- Activities Committee Meeting	9 *MAP Math Assessments *8:20am- StuCo Meeting *5:00pm- MS & HS Volleyball vs. Veritas	10 *MAP Math Assessments *8:30am- School Mass	11 *9:00am- MS Volleyball Tournament @ Chapman
	13 *7:50 - 8:30am- Grandparents & Goodies	14	15	16 *8:20am- Art Club *4:00pm- CC Meet @ Northern Heights	17 *No School Mass *4:30pm-MS & HS Volleyball @ FHCS	18
19	20 *5:00pm- MS Volleyball @ Onaga	21	22 *3:45pm- PTO Meeting	23 *8:20am- FBLA Meeting *4:00pm- CC Meet @ Wabaunsee *5:00pm- Recruitment Meeting *5:30pm- School Council Meeting	24 *8:30am- School Mass *4:30pm- MS & HS Volleyball vs. SVHE *4:30pm – 6:30pm- Taco Feed Fundraiser	25
26	27	28	29 *Jeans & Spirit Wear	30 *4:30pm- MS & HS Volleyball vs. Heritage		

Capture Your Memories in This Year's St. Xavier Catholic School, KS Yearbook

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