



**CECILE MANTECON**  
7th Grade Religion  
Junior High Social Studies

Mrs. Mantecon graduated with a major in Business Administration and Economics and a minor in Advertising Graphics. In 1997, she began as a parent volunteer at St. Mary and was officially hired as the very first 3rd Grade aide. She holds a Multiple Subject K-12 California teaching credential and hopes to get her Masters degree as soon as she decides on an emphasis. She holds a Master Catechist Certificate from the Diocese of San Jose and attends the L.A. Religious Congress to be renewed spiritually and continue her faith-formation. In addition to teaching, Mrs. Mantecon is the Religion Coordinator and Instructional Technology Coordinator. In her "spare time," Mrs. Mantecon likes to cook, think, take walks, listen to music, dance, and most of all, take naps! She has "two terrific children" (both St. Mary graduates) and a loving husband—her best friends in the world. Between the four of them, they've logged over 780,000 air miles traveling mostly to and from the Philippines to visit family and friends.

She enjoys teaching because she loves to see the light bulb come on (hers and her student's). Mrs. Mantecon says that if she could just make a difference in the life of one child, she would have done her job. She hopes that every student realizes that we never stop learning for as long as we live. Above the lockers in the 7th grade classroom, Mrs. Mantecon has posted a simple reminder for her students by Mohandes K. Gandhi: "Live simply so that others may simply live."



**JUDY MIKRUT**  
6th Grade Language Arts

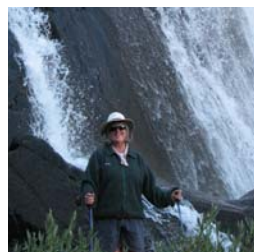
Mrs. Mikrut has been teaching Language Arts to 6th graders since 1992. Born and raised in Minnesota, she loves to share stories of her childhood and fond memories of those Mid-West winters with her students—just ask *any* of them! Mrs. Mikrut hopes to

instill the love of reading and writing in her students and make it their lifelong enjoyment. She and husband, Fred, have one daughter and two sons, one a graduate of St. Mary School. Along with walking, Mrs. Mikrut loves to spend time in Carmel with her two beautiful granddaughters.



**JON SANCHEZ**  
P.E. Teacher/Athletic  
Director

Mr. Sanchez says that he is the lucky one—he has all of the students every year, not just one class each year! A graduate of St. Mary School, he credits his parents, the school and parish for giving him the basic fundamental Christian values that guide his life. As a teacher here, he feels fortunate to now be able to "give back" all that he has received. A graduate of San Jose State University, with a minor in Religious Studies, Mr. Sanchez strives to build student character through effort, teamwork, and responsibility. He and his wife Michelle have two daughters and one son, all graduates of St. Mary School. When he's not prepping the field for after-school sports, ordering uniforms or attending league meetings, Mr. Sanchez finds a way to play a game of golf—or two—or three! He reminds all of his students, past and present to "be proud of who you are becoming and never let the crowd make your decisions for you."



**GEORGIA STERN**  
Junior High Science

Another graduate of St. Mary School, Mrs. Stern and her husband have a daughter and son, both recent college graduates and alum of St. Mary School. Her undergraduate work was done at Gonzaga University and she received her Master's Degree in Agronomy at Washington State University. Recently, Mrs. Stern dabbled in "construction management" over the course of four years as one of the advisors in the construction of our state-of-the-art Science Lab.

Mrs. Stern hopes to inspire her students to become responsible stewards of our Earth, with an inquiring mind and an appreciation for themselves and their environment. Her hobbies include hiking, backpacking, travel, swimming gardening, reading, listening to music, rock hunting, visiting with friends and family, and trying new things.



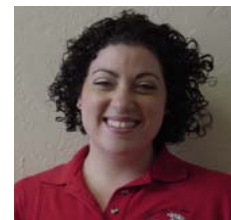
## Meet Our Junior High Teachers



**MELIDA ALNAS**  
Junior High Spanish

Señora Melida Alnas has taught Spanish to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders each morning before school in a 35-minute optional Spanish program since 2004. Sra. Alnas enjoys the opportunity to pass on her native tongue to the students; she hopes to make a difference in their academic career by teaching them a foreign language. She is inspired when she hears her students speak Spanish—she knows they are learning! Mrs.

Alnas and her husband Ernest have three grown children She is currently enrolled at San Jose State University and enjoys cooking and decorating in her spare time.



**MELISSA BROOME**  
Music Program Direc-

While employed by the diocese as Director of Liturgy for the Cathedral in San Jose, Miss Broome continues to teach music and prepare liturgies for our students. While at Loyola Marymount University (L.A.), she studied Vocal Performance and Theological Studies. Her postgraduate work continued at University of Notre Dame, Indiana, where she received her Masters in Liturgical Studies. In the classroom, students not only learn music to sing at Mass but also music theory, music history and music appreciation. Junior High students will continue the foundation on note reading covered last year with the use of instruments such as the Recorder. She is overjoyed to have such wonderful instrumentalists to work with for liturgies since the band program began. With all she has to do, Miss Broome still manages to squeeze some cooking, singing, wine tasting and traveling abroad into her busy schedule.



**SHERYL CATHERS**  
Art Program Director

Although she did not major in Art, Mrs. Cathers took many college art classes while attending West Valley College. She began teaching art at St. Mary School in 1997, when her daughter entered kindergarten. In Junior High, her goal is appreciation: of famous art, of different styles, of their own work, of others' work. She focuses on technique, art styles, and exploring different mediums as she watches each student realize their own abilities. Mrs. Cathers and Mrs. Mantecon will take the 7th grade class to the de Young and the Legion of Honor in the fall to allow the students to see art in the larger world and expose them to many famous artists and masterpieces.

Mrs. Cathers enjoys spending time with her family: husband Jeff, and son Josh and daughter Marina, both graduates of St. Mary School. She also enjoys traveling and takes every opportunity to visit art museums and view famous paintings throughout the world.



**MARCEE ERVIN**  
Pre-Algebra

Mrs. Ervin will be continuing in the junior high teaching pre-algebra to seventh and eighth grades. She grew up in Morgan Hill and attended public schools there. A graduate of Cal Poly (SLO), San Jose State, and Santa Clara University, Mrs. Ervin has been teaching at SMS since 1993, spending the first 14 of those years in third grade. In her spare time, Mrs. Ervin enjoys spending time with

her husband, Bill, and children, Delaney and Braedon; she enjoys being outside hanging out with them, even if it is just in her own backyard! She also enjoys reading and working on home improvement projects. Mrs. Ervin says: "Math rules!"

Besides her ministry as principal, Ms. Hanson teaches writing in the 7th and 8th grade. Teaching has always been her passion though a second choice behind becoming a cartoonist for Walt Disney Studios. Drawing was — and still is — one of her favorite pastimes.

Her formal education includes undergraduate work at Santa Clara



**CHRISTA HANSON**  
Language Arts

University; credential work at San Jose State University; and a Master's Degree from the College of Notre Dame, Belmont (now Notre Dame de Namur University). She has been in Catholic education since 1974 in the Diocese of San Jose with the exception of four years in Southern California. She has been principal of St. Mary's since 1990 and she enjoys her part-time teaching in the junior high. She also chairs WCEA/WASC accreditation team visits in nearby diocese, as well as serves on other diocesan committees. Ms. Hanson particularly enjoys 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing. Students need to write often and write for different reasons and audiences. She says, "Writing is like drawing — you sketch out your thoughts and come up with a finished picture." Ms. Hanson agrees with William Butler Yeats, "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." Many educational flares be lighted this year in our junior high.



**STACY HUDDLESTON**  
7th & 8th Grade Language Arts; 8th Grade Religion; 8th Grade

Mrs. Huddleston has been teaching at St. Mary School since 1998. She grew up in Morgan Hill, CA. Upon graduation from Live Oak High School, she moved on to San Diego State University earning her B.A. in Child Development. Mrs. Huddleston began her career teaching preschool in San Jose, CA. She went on to become an administrator of a preschool in San Jose before she felt her true calling to teach in the junior high setting. In 1998, Mrs. Huddleston took the position of seventh homeroom teacher and began teaching language arts and religion to both seventh and eighth graders at St. Mary School. Mrs. Huddleston moved on to become the eighth grade homeroom teacher and continues teaching language arts in seventh and eighth grade and religion in eighth grade.

Mrs. Huddleston continued her education by completing the credential program through Santa Clara University. Mrs. Huddleston plans to continue her education by obtaining her Master's Degree. In addition to teaching, Mrs. Huddleston is the co-moderator of the St. Mary School student council. Mrs. Huddleston thrives on working with the junior high students in multiple settings and feels energized by the enthusiasm the students have for their school and their positions within the school. In her free time, Mrs. Huddleston loves to spend time with her husband and two children, frolic at the beach, and curl up with a good book.

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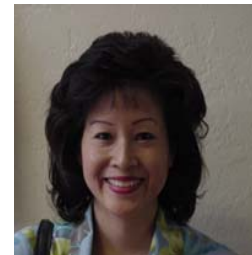
Mrs. Johnson joined the staff in 2008 after spending 26 years at St. Simon School in Los Altos Hills. She is very happy to be back in the classroom after her four years as principal and she doesn't miss making that long commute from Morgan Hill!



**MARY JOHNSON**  
6th Grade Math, Religion, Science, & Social Studies  
7th Grade Math

In addition to 7th grade Math, she teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade Religion, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Mrs. Johnson earned her BA and Teaching Credential at San Francisco State University, and her MA and Preliminary Administrative Credential at San Jose State University.

She particularly enjoys teaching math, which is quite an accomplishment for a person who took a class called "Math Without Fear" in college! Humor is an important aspect of her teaching style, and she feels that makes teaching enjoyable for her and for her students. Mrs. Johnson loves to travel, read, cross-stitch, snow ski, and water ski. On a recent cruise to Alaska, she led a team that won almost every trivia contest on the ship—and that should come in handy when working with St. Mary's Academic Decathlon Team. She and her husband have 5 kids with 20 legs—four dogs and one cat. Mrs. Johnson's favorite quote is "You can't leave footprints on the sands of time by sitting down."



**PHYLLIS KONG**  
8th Grade Algebra

Mrs. Kong is the owner and operator of Young Learning Company, a local teacher supply store, and after-school tutor. Mrs. Kong spends a part of her morning teaching Algebra to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. She and her husband have two children, the youngest a Kindergartner here. In the past, Mrs. Kong has done some resource work with our students in the lower grades.