



CECILE MANTECÓN
7th Grade Religion
Junior High Social Studies

Mrs. Mantecón 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. Mantecón is the Religion Coordinator and Technology Coordinator. In her “spare time,” Mrs. Mantecón 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. Mantecón 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. Mantecón 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 for 17 years. 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 22-month old granddaughter Maya.



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 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.

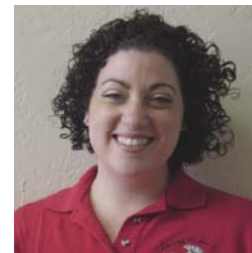


Meet Our Junior High Teachers



MELIDA ALNAS
Junior High Spanish

Señora Melida Alnas teaches Spanish to 6th, 7th and 8th graders each morning before school in a 35-minute optional Spanish program. 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 children (her youngest is an 8th grader at St. Mary School). She is currently enrolled at San Jose State University and enjoys cooking and decorating in her spare time.



MELISSA BROOME
Music Program Director

While employed by the diocese as liturgical director for the Cathedral in San Jose, she continues to teach music to all of our students. Additionally, this year she will be the Liturgy Coordinator for the school. While at Loyola Marymount University (L.A.), she studied Vocal Performance and Theological Studies. Her postgraduate work continued at University of Notre Dame where she received her Masters in Liturgical Studies.

In the classroom, students will not only learn music to sing at Mass but also music theory, music history and music apprecia-

tion. Junior High students will continue the foundation on note reading covered last year with the use of instruments such as Hand Bells and the Recorder. Miss Broome with work with the students to choose their own music for liturgies, teaching them how to select an appropriate piece given the nature of the liturgy and evaluate the text in the context of the theme of the particular liturgy. Miss Broome enjoys cooking, singing, wine tasting and traveling abroad.



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 11 years ago, 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. Mrs. Cathers spent the month of August painting an 860 square foot mural under the Luchessa bridge on the levee trail.



MARCEE ERVIN
Pre-Algebra

This year, Mrs. Ervin will be joining 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), Mrs. Ervin has been teaching third grade at St. Mary School for the past 14 years, and

is very excited about the chance to work with older students in a challenging subject like math.

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.



CHRISTA HANSON
Language Arts

Besides her ministry as principal, Ms. Hanson will be back in the classroom again (much to the delight of many parents)! 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 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. This is her 18th year as principal of St. Mary's, and she looks forward to her part-time return to the classroom.

Ms. Hanson particularly enjoys 7th and 8th grade literature and writing components because of the richness of literature and the critical thinking that is involved. She says, "Writing is like drawing — you sketch out your thoughts and come up with a finished picture. I want students to feel passionate about writing, too."



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

Beginning her 10th year at St. Mary School, Mrs. Huddleston teaches 7th and 8th grade language arts in partnership with Ms. Hanson. She graduated from San Diego State University and came to the school as a 7th grade homeroom, language arts and religion teacher. Mrs. Huddleston is inspired by her Junior High students. "Teaching at this age level is challenging, exhausting, but most importantly fulfilling,"

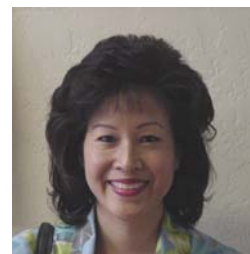
she says. Mrs. Huddleston lives in Gilroy with her husband, Keith, children, Jared (9), and Kylie (6), both St. Mary School students. She enjoys spending time with her family at the beach, reading, learning new things, gardening, and playing with her pets.



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

Mrs. Johnson joins the staff after spending 26 years at St. Simon School in Los Altos Hills. Just ask her husband how happy *he* is to have his wife back in the classroom after her four years as principal making that long commute from Morgan Hill daily! Additionally, she will be teaching 6th 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. 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 8th grade students. She and her husband have two children: one school age and one toddler. In the past, Mrs. Kong has done some resource work with students in the lower grades.