

MRS CARREN GRATZ

8th Grade Instructor



A little bit about me...

The 2022 - 2023 school year marked my third year at SJPS and I have been loving every minute of it! Prior to accepting the Middle School Math and Science position here, I taught middle school students at Milwaukee Excellence. The turning point in my career (when I knew I wanted to become a teacher) was during my time working as a student supervisor at Cedarburg High School throughout college. I chose to leave my previous career in Environmental Sciences and pursue a Master's in Education. While completing my schooling, I also worked as a Paraprofessional at Cedarburg High School. The available position at SJPS came at the perfect time and I cannot wait to see what the next years will hold!

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

If I could take the middle school students ANYWHERE in the world, I would choose to take them to Italy. Aside from touring the ancient ruins, indulging in amazing food, and taking in the majestic scenery, I would make sure to plan a pitstop in Vatican City. It is a bucket list trip of mine and I would love to share the religious experience with them and help them make lasting memories intertwined with their faith.

Are there any funny teaching moments you're willing to share?

Hands down, the funniest teaching moment I have was with the 2021-2022 8th grade class. I was in the middle of a lesson on cell structure when one of the students sneezed. While he sneezed, it came out as "A sneeze!" (in a very loud, high pitched voice). It caught me completely off guard and I spent a good deal of time laughing so hard that I was crying. Throughout the remainder of the lesson, any time I looked at this student, I could not help but break out into laughter as I recalled his sneeze. The entire class got a good laugh out of it!



What is your favorite part about St. Joseph Parish School?

There are many aspects of SJPS that I could claim as my favorite, but when narrowing it down, my favorite part is the relationships I am able to create with the students. When they come to the middle school, I get to spend every day with them and have the pleasure to get to know their personalities, their likes, their dislikes and everything in between. Then, by the time they are my homeroom class as eighth graders, we have a special relationship and are able to create many more lasting memories.