Andy Smith
Music & Physical Education Instructor

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My Favorite Things

What is your favorite St. Joseph Parish School tradition?
My favorite Tradition at St Joseph Parish School is getting to direct the musical. Each year it amazes me how the students take ownership of the musical, and really make it THEIR performance. I also love getting to teach such a large age range of children and adults, too, as I'm Director of Music at St Peter in Slinger!

You teach music to Pre-K through 8th grade students. What helps you to adjust to the various developmental stages and behaviors of such a wide range of students?
After ten years of working with students of varying ages, I've figured out what sorts of activities work best with each group, how long their attention span will last, and what they are best capable of accomplishing with the time we have in the classroom. Each age has their advantages and disadvantages, too; younger kids are easier to change gears with quickly, especially if things aren't going as planned, where older kids have greater capacity to accomplish more advanced musical activities like playing the xylophones and the ukes. Regardless of what age group you might pop in to see, though, you are sure to have a great time!

Where are you originally from?
I grew up in nearby Saukville, going to school at Northern Ozaukee School District. I lived in Saukville until my wife and I bought our first (and now second!) house in Port Washington.

What are your hobbies?
Other than lots of music, I enjoy playing all sorts of boardgames, PC and VR games, camping with my family, and generally hanging out around a fire whenever I can. My wife, Laura, and I have four beautiful children, Eli, Josie, Teddy, and Hazel, who are all growing up too fast before our eyes!

What is your favorite food and drink?
If you have a student at St. Joe's, you should ask them! Students rarely see me WITHOUT a cup of coffee at least nearby. Put that next to a cheesecake and you have now summed up my perfect meal!