

Good afternoon St. John School,

Over the past few weeks, we have been busy in planning for the 2023-2024 school year. I have a few announcements to share today dealing with staffing for next year. In any school any year, there is always some turnover. It is met with both sadness and excitement for the future.

In Kindergarten, Ms. McGrath will move into a lead teacher role and will be joined by Mrs. Foster as a classroom aide. Ms. McGrath was the first person I hired at SJS and have been blown away by her growth as an educator the past seven years. She will make an excellent lead Kindergarten teacher after co-teaching with Mrs. Miller this year. Mrs. Foster is finishing up her third year at SJS as an aide and has done a fantastic job. I am also excited that both Ms. McGrath and Mrs. Foster will be taking the Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham Plus course through the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education this summer to further their teaching skills.

We have decided to combine our Grade 4 classes for next year into one Grade 5 class. This was possible because of a bit of attrition in students. This also fits in with the philosophy that St. John School is best as a single class per grade school. This shift has forced us to make a significant and difficult staffing change. Mrs. Shatkin will not be returning to St. John School as her position is now not needed. We thank her for her great work over the past year. Mrs. McMillan, Ms. Wesner, Mrs. Novogratz, and Ms. Branco will be returning to the Grade 4/5 team. We will have more details on the Grade 4/5 schedule at a later date.

In our middle school, Mr. Brooks will not be returning to St. John School in the fall. We thank him for his three years of service to St. John School and wish him the best of luck in the future. I am sure he will bring his passion of history wherever he goes. Mrs. Palmer will be moving into the middle school Theology role for next year as well as Grade 7 ELA. This will make her a full-time middle school teacher, also responsible for our service programs and supporting faith formation. We are excited for her to share her faith life with our students and be a full-time member of our middle school team. She will continue to run the SJS Drama program after school. Mrs. Ross will be taking over the middle school history classes, which is a part time role, while also continuing to support students part-time as Learning Consultant. Mrs. Ross was a high school history teacher for 12 years and taught Grade 4/5 history at SJS a few years ago so she is extremely qualified for the role.

Mrs. Czarnecki will also return next year as our Speech Language Pathologist. The goal is to have her at SJS for parts of two days. We are excited for the program to grow and formalize.

This leaves two major positions open at SJS. We will begin a search for a new performing arts/music teacher very soon. Mrs. Palmer has done an amazing job in the role for many years but has decided that now was the time to move on. When I post the position, please share, and send any interested candidates my way. We will also be looking for an elementary aid, primarily working in Grade 1. When we post this position in the future, I will let you know. Again, if you know of interested people, please send them my way.

Please join me in thanking Mrs. Shatkin and Mr. Brooks for their commitment to St. John School and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Let me know if you have any questions, also realizing that more details will come in the next few months.

Chris