

Behind The Scenes With The Teaching Stars at Queen of Martyrs!



The teachers were asked the following five questions:

1. How long have you been teaching?
2. What was your favorite subject when you were in school?
3. Where did you go to school?
4. Why do you like teaching at Queen of Martyrs?
5. What do you enjoy doing when you're not busy with schoolwork?

Here is what they had to say:

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Peggy Bischoff

1. This is my fourth year as the 4 year old Pre-K teacher at Q of M. Prior to this, I spent three years as an aid at Q of M in 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 1st grade.
2. I really enjoyed history and religion.
3. St. Agnes and Shields Grammar School, Lourdes High School, BER-Bureau of Education and Research
4. I love the students! They are so eager to learn. The parents are very involved in their children's education. That is very helpful when everyone is on the same page.
5. I am busy with my children who are active in theatre, dance, and sports. I love watching them on stage and on the court or field.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Pat Griffin

1. Teaching 28+ years
2. Liked English/Spelling/Reading as subjects when I was in school
3. Fort Dearborn for kindergarten in Chicago,
St. Killian's in Chicago Grade 1- Feb of 4th grade (we moved) St. Rita in Chicago,
Feb. 4th grade to 8th Grade graduation Maria High School in Chicago, St. Xavier
for college
4. I love teaching at Queen of Martyrs! It's a great place for my teaching career. I am in kindergarten and the primary grades are a good fit for me. The children are respectful, from good homes, and are willing to learn. We are learning while doing many fun activities.

5. I like to read whenever I get a chance and spend time with family and friends!

First Grade

Mrs. Lisa Gagner

1. Nine years
2. Math
3. Trinity Christian College
4. Because Martyrs is more like a family than a school.
5. Doing things with my family and watching high school basketball

Mrs. Julie O'Connor

1. I have been teaching for 4 years.
2. My favorite subject was Literature and Language Arts.
3. I went to Saint Xavier University for undergrad and Concordia University for my Masters Degree.
4. I like teaching at Queen of Martyrs because it has a great sense of community. The parents and staff are always eager to help. The students are extremely hard working and dedicated.
5. I love to spend time with my family and friends. I also enjoy crocheting.

Second Grade

Miss Ashley Flores

1. Two years
2. Math
3. University of Illinois at Champaign
4. I enjoy working with the faculty but most of all, the students are great!
5. I love running, trying new restaurants, and cooking fun, new recipes at home.

Mrs. Jackie King

1. I've been teaching 33 years- 23 at Q of M and 10 years at other schools.
2. My favorite subject when I was in school was Reading. Now I love teaching Reading (favorite children's author is Marc Brown-and poetry by Shel Silverstein).
3. I went to St. John de la Salle grammar school, Academy of Our Lady (Longwood) High School, and Western Illinois University.
4. I like teaching at Q of M because of the family atmosphere- I have taught aunts, uncles, and mothers of some of the children I now teach.
5. Free time (what free time???) When I do have free time I like to read (mostly in the summer- favorite author is Jodi Picoult.
I like to travel (& visit my son who lives in Texas).
I love spending time & playing with my grandchildren (I know it's hard to believe I'm a grandmother!!)
I like to sing & was in my choir at church for 17 years. Now I've joined the hand bell choir instead.

Third Grade

Mrs. Eileen Murphy

1. I have been teaching for 4 years. (All at Q of M)
2. My favorite subject is Math. Math is EVERYWHERE and can be so much fun!
3. I went to Providence Catholic High School. For college, I went to St. Xavier University.
4. Queen of Martyrs is the best place to work! I love seeing my third grade students who are caring, positive, and ready to learn each day. The children and their families at Q of M are very supportive, thoughtful, and family oriented. My coworkers are great, too. They are dedicated and hard working individuals.
5. In my free time, I love being surrounded by family and friends-it's the BEST! I enjoy shopping, taking pictures, going out to eat, and watching my husband's freshman basketball team play. Also, I hope to become a better cook in the future and actually enjoy cooking. 😊

Mrs. Sarah Turano

1. I have been teaching for 6 years.
2. My favorite subject in school was history. I love learning about the past and seeing historical places.
3. I went to Lewis University.
4. Queen of Martyrs is a special school. The students have a contagious enthusiasm about learning and life. The parents are very caring people who are actively involved, which helps create a family and God-centered learning environment.
5. During my free time, I love spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy scrapbooking, gardening, shopping, and having game nights with my cousins.

Fourth Grade

Miss Gina Di Cola

1. This is my 22nd year of teaching, all of them having been at Queen of Martyrs.
2. I loved Reading.
3. I went to St. Linus Grammar School, Mt. Assisi High School and St. Xavier University.
4. I love teaching at the Catholic School. I love working close to home and I love that I can live my faith every day.
5. I love to read, do jigsaw puzzles, watch Criminal Minds, go to my cottage to relax, and walk my dog Goliath.

Mrs. Kim Felmon

1. 8 years
2. Math
3. DePaul (undergrad in Finance) and St. Xavier University (Masters in Education)
4. I enjoy mostly the kids, but also working in a Catholic environment.

5. Family time, reading a good historical fiction, or spending time with my own kids who lead very busy lives themselves in 2 terrific Catholic schools located in the area.

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Alexandria (Lexie) Brown

1. 6 years
2. English
3. Carl Sandburg High School/ St. Xavier University
4. The chemistry the faculty and staff have together.
5. Enjoy my time being a mom.

Mrs. Carla Kirkland

1. Total of 24 years
2. Math
3. Graduated from Loyola University of Chicago
4. The faculty, sense of community, families
5. Spending time with my family, traveling, shopping

Sixth Grade

Miss Katie Eichberger

1. I have been teaching for 7 years. I have taught 5th grade, a 1st/2nd grade multiage classroom, and 6th grade.
2. When I was in school, my favorite subject was reading and writing. I loved reading books and was always writing imaginative stories.
3. I went to college at Lake Forest College and am currently earning a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Concordia University.
4. I like teaching at Queen of Martyrs because the teachers are very friendly and helpful. The students are fun to be around and enjoy learning.

5. When I'm not busy with schoolwork, I like to spend time with my family. I also like to plan vacations and spend time outdoors.

Mrs. Julie Oehme

1. I have been teaching for 14 years.
2. My favorite subject in school was Math.
3. I graduated from St. Xavier University.
4. I like teaching at Queen of Martyrs because of the support from faculty, staff, administration, and parents. I especially like teaching at Queen of Martyrs because the students are hardworking, respectful, and fun to teach!
5. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends when I am not busy with schoolwork.

Seventh Grade

Mrs. Colleen Biszewski

1. 22 years
2. Math
3. St. Albert the Great-Queen of Peace -Eastern Illinois University
4. Queen of Martyrs is my Parish, my Home. I never have to leave it. I get to celebrate my love for God at school as well as at church. I am surrounded by family. It is a great feeling.
5. I love to shop, do crossword puzzles, and read.

Mrs. Robin Creevy

1. 14 years (10 were at St. John Fisher)
2. Math and Reading
3. St. Thomas More, Mother McAuley H.S., St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, St. Xavier University, Chicago
4. The students are great, the parents are very supportive, and I really enjoy working with my teaching partners.

5. Spending time with my family and friends, attending my son's games, traveling, relaxing!!

Mrs. Lois Kettering

1. I have been teaching for 33 years.
2. My favorite subject in school was Math.
3. I went to Queen of Martyrs, Mother McAuley, Saint Teresa, and Chicago State.
4. Queen of Martyrs is a wonderful school with supportive parents. The children are eager and enthusiastic to learn. The administration and pastor are supportive of the school.
5. I enjoy being with family and friends. Going out to eat is something I also enjoy. I also enjoy reading when I get a chance.

Eighth Grade

Mrs. Patricia Pekelnicky

1. I have been teaching for 22 years.
2. My favorite subject when I was in school was History/Social Studies.
3. I went to Sacred Heart High School in Mokena, IL and the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL.
4. I love teaching at Queen of Martyrs because I can openly share my faith with my students and I really love preparing them for Confirmation.
5. I like to read, sew, and do crafts when I have the time.

Miss Elizabeth Stokes:

1. This is my fourth year teaching.
2. English/Writing
3. Grammar School – St. Damian, High School – Marian Catholic, College – University of Iowa, Grad School – Saint Xavier University

4. The KIDS!! They are fun and creative, and give me a reason to smile every single day!
5. I love spending time with my family and friends. I also like to shop and play volleyball.

Physical Education and Library

Miss Mary Ann Cronin

1. I have been teaching 33 years. The first 2 years at Blessed Agnes and St. Edmunds and this is my 31st year at Q of M.
2. My favorite subject while in elementary and high school was Physical Education.
3. I went to St. John Fisher for grammar school then to Morgan Park High School and University of Illinois Chicago.
4. I like teaching at Queen of Martyrs because it is like my second family. I've witnessed firsthand how people rally around families in need time and time again.
5. I like to play and watch sports. I enjoy almost any sort of game. I like to work in my garden. I like to read but seldom seem to have the time except during the summer when I'm usually only working one job.

Computers

Mrs. Carolyn Koziol

1. 29 years total
2. Math and Spelling
3. St. Anthony for grammar school, Mother Elizabeth Seton for high school and Western Illinois University for college
4. My co-workers are wonderful, the students are respectful, and the community is very supportive.

5. I love reading, gardening (when the weather is nice), going to the movies, and walking my dog Ivy.

Art

Mrs. Mary Fran Henehan

1. 22 years
2. Reading
3. DePaul University
4. The students are awesome!
5. Spending time with family and friends

That's a wrap!

