

# MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal



## MS. COLLEEN DUNLAVY

**Background:** Ms. Dunlavy brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Catholic education to St. John Fisher School. She is a proud product and lifelong advocate of Catholic schools, with over 35 years in education as both an educator and school leader. Ms. Dunlavy earned her BA in Education from Bradley University, graduating Summa Cum Laude, with concentrations in Math, English, and Social Studies. She holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instructional Design from National Louis University. Ms. Dunlavy is passionate about fostering student growth and leadership, mentoring fellow educators, and building a strong, faith-filled school community.

**Falcon Pride:** Since arriving at SJF, she has immersed herself in every aspect of school life—teaching 6th grade math and religion, mentoring fellow teachers, leading afterschool programs, and supporting student leadership initiatives. Her background gives her a unique perspective on academic growth, instructional design, and building strong student support systems. She is committed to fostering a culture of excellence, faith, and inclusivity, and she works each day to empower students and staff alike.

**More about Ms. Dunlavy:** Ms. Dunlavy is the proud mother of five children and deeply values the importance of faith and family in her life. She is active in her home parish and plays an important role in the St. John Fisher faith community. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her family and relaxing at her cottage in Michigan. Whether attending Mass, planning family gatherings, or exploring new places, Ms. Dunlavy finds joy in the simple moments that bring people together.

**Favorite Part of SJF:** The joy and energy of the students—watching them grow in confidence and faith makes every day meaningful to Ms. Dunlavy. She also loves collaborating with such a dedicated faculty and being part of a school community that values tradition, celebrates learning, and supports one another like family. Ms. Dunlavy truly loves the Falcons at SJF with all her heart and wants to make SJF a place where every student feels seen, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. She is dedicated to nurturing a school environment rooted in faith, academic excellence, and joyful community—where both students and staff can grow together and thrive.

# MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Assistant  
Principal



## MRS. CLAIRE LARMON

**Background:** Mrs. Larmon oversees all areas related to instruction including, but not limited to, the development and facilitating of faculty and staff professional development related to school culture, teacher improvement and curriculum development as well as consistent enforcement of student conduct. Mrs. Larmon is a certified Danielson Model Evaluator. Mrs. Larmon received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University of Chicago and was also the recipient of the Cecil Coleman Award for Conference Student Athlete of the Year. Mrs. Larmon began teaching English and also served as the head sophomore and varsity assistant girls basketball coach at Saint Ignatius. While working at Saint Ignatius, Mrs. Larmon went on to earn her Master's degree in Education as well as her Administrative Certification from Loyola University. After a number of years in the classroom, Mrs. Larmon assumed an administrative role as Director of Admissions and Recruiting at Saint Ignatius. Mrs. Larmon also served as the Program Director for Redwood Prep, a high school entrance exam prep course. Mrs. Larmon taught 8th grade English Language Arts at St. John Fisher before accepting the role of Assistant Principal.

**Falcon Pride:** Mrs. Larmon is thrilled to be working at her alma mater and feels privileged to serve and work beside such a dedicated and innovative faculty and staff.

**More about Mrs. Larmon:** Mrs. Larmon lives in Oak Lawn with her husband and five children. Her two oldest daughters attend Marquette University, her son attends St. Ignatius College Prep and her two youngest daughters attend Marist High School.

**Favorite Part of SJF:** The students at SJF are kind, creative, well rounded and intellectually curious. It's truly rewarding to witness their growth—not only academically, but also in the meaningful relationships they build with one another. I'm also excited about the investments in technology and curriculum, which will further empower our dedicated teachers to make an even greater impact. SJF is driven by a hardworking, collaborative team, and it's inspiring to be part of such a committed and forward-thinking community.

# MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Director of  
Student Services



## MRS. KAREN BROGAN

**Background:** Mrs. Brogan earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Illinois University. While teaching in the Chicago Public Schools, she pursued and completed her Master's degree in Special Education. After ten years in CPS, Mrs. Brogan took time off to stay home with her three children. She is now beginning her seventh year at St. John Fisher School, where she loves working with the students and families. Equipped with her LBS1, Mrs. Brogan will now serve as the Director of Student Services at St. John Fisher.

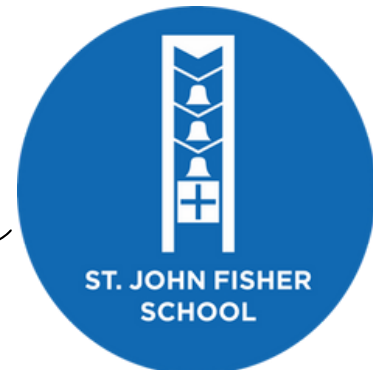
**Falcon Pride:** Mrs. Brogan has a deep-rooted pride in Catholic education and an unwavering faith that guides both her personal and professional life. A proud product of Catholic schools, she attended St. Linus Grammar School and Queen of Peace High School. Mrs. Brogan and her husband, Patrick, are raising their children in that same tradition. Her sons, Marty and Tommy, attend St. Catherine of Alexandria in Oak Lawn, and her daughter, Molly, will begin her freshman year at Mother McAuley High School this fall. St. John Fisher students and families hold a very special place in Mrs. Brogan's heart, and she is excited to take on her new role and work with the entire student body.

**More About Mrs. Brogan:** Mrs. Brogan enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, especially at her cottage in Sister Lakes, Michigan. When not at school or the lake, she loves connecting with loved ones and making memories.

**Favorite Part of SJF:** Mrs. Brogan has an unwavering passion for teaching. She loves working with the students at St. John Fisher and takes great joy in watching them grow both academically and socially. Every child she has met and worked with has left an impact on her, helping to shape her into a stronger educator, professional, and woman of faith. Mrs. Brogan's time at St. John Fisher has been a dream come true, and she can't wait to continue serving the school community in this next chapter of her career.

# MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Director of  
Religious Education



## DR. ELENA CHERMAK

**Background:** Dr. Chermak happily serves the parish and school at SJF for many years. She leads religious education including planning daily prayers, school masses, prayer services, and celebrations of the sacraments. She is a valued resource for our teachers to promote the Catholic identity of our school. She is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the 2nd of 8 children of a faith-filled family whose extended family includes religious scholars and priests. Her parents met as they each escaped communism and came to this country. Their experience affirmed Sunday Mass attendance as a cherished part of family life. Dr. Chermak earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and theology from Duquesne University while on full four-year scholarship as a musician, singer and dancer in an Eastern European folk ensemble which performed 120 shows each year and travelled 33,000 miles annually throughout the United States. She holds a Master of Arts from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, followed by a Doctor of Ministry degree at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake – (Mundelein Seminary). She has also studied at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, and in Rome at the Institute of Saint Clement, Pope.

**Falcon Pride:** Helping faith come alive for our students and their families through meaningful prayer services, Masses and celebration of Sacraments including extensive participation by the children in creative planning and presentation. She hopes the children know they are surrounded by God's love and inspired to be Christ's presence in the world through word and action.

**More about Dr. Chermak:** She has extensive teaching and leadership experience including in the Archdiocesan Teacher Religion Certification and the Lay Leadership programs, both under the auspices of University of Saint Mary of the Lake. She served as the Vice President and then President of the Chicago Association of Religious Educators. In May 2015 she received the Archdiocesan of Chicago Catechetical and Youth Ministry Award for Excellence in Catechesis awarded by Cardinal Blase Cupich. Previously, she was honored as the Heart of the School by Cardinal Francis George. If you ask SJF alumni of all ages, she is often described as the heart of SJF for many reasons but largely by enhancing each school mass with fun, friends, and faith so they are long term memories for our graduates. She does a great job at it, just ask a Falcon!

**Favorite Part of SJF:** Working with the children in our wonderful faith filled family of Saint John Fisher and seeing them grow and flourish through the years. Every day brings great joy through interaction with the students, principal, staff, priests, teachers and parents of our great community. She is grateful to our Saint John Fisher families for their support and encouragement as partners in faith.