



# Meet the Leadership Team

*Mrs. Maura Nash, Principal*

**Background:** Mrs. Nash's personal and professional background is a great fit for SJF School. She is life-long product of Catholic Schools, 34 years as a student or educator and counting! Mrs. Nash has a BA in Secondary Education, English Literature and History, with a minor in sociology, and a MA in Educational Leadership with a Type 75 certificate. Mrs. Nash is a Certified Danielson Model Evaluator and her teaching experience prior to SJF was at the high school level in English, ACT prep/tutor. Prior to teaching, she was a counselor at St. Xavier University.

**Falcon Pride:** Mrs. Nash is a proud mom of 3 Falcons! Her upbringing has instilled a strong sense of pride for Catholic Schools everywhere. She is a firm believer, champion, and ambassador of Catholic education and is committed to SJF students in this role and families in our community. She has led the school during a time of significant adversity and is proud of the resilience of our teachers, students, and parents. She leads with the essential notion that we are all in this together, in our own family and in God's family.

**More about Mrs. Nash:** Mrs. Nash was teaching ELA in the junior high at SJF in 2018 when she was asked to take on the role of Principal. She stepped up and has not wasted a minute as she was immediately dedicated to the role and our school. In just a couple short years she has led the development of the five-year strategic plan and reenergized SJF School's mission with structure and focus. She is committed understanding the strengths of our school and community and to recognize our weaknesses in order to create a plan that encompasses and embraces both allowing us to thrive as a vibrant and high-achieving community.

**Favorite Part of Being a part of SJF:** Walking the halls and visiting the classrooms for the opportunity to interact with each student. I'm greeted with a smile and such optimism from so many students and each interaction inspires me to do more. I'm also so hopeful after meeting so many community members that we can leverage the strong legacy and spirit of SJF to continue set our sights high and focus on our future.



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## *Mrs. Claire Larmon, Assistant Principal*

**Background:** Claire 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. Claire is a certified Danielson Model Evaluator. Claire 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. Claire began teaching English and also served as the head sophomore and varsity assistant girls & basketball coach at Saint Ignatius. While working at Saint Ignatius, Claire 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, Claire assumed an administrative role as Director of Admissions and Recruiting at Saint Ignatius. Claire also served as the Program Director for Redwood Prep, a high school entrance exam prep course. Claire taught 8th grade English Language Arts at St. John Fisher before accepting the role of Assistant Principal.

**Falcon Pride:** Claire 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:** Claire Larmon lives in Oak Lawn with her husband and five children. Her two oldest daughters attend Marquette University and Marist High School respectively, her son attends St. Ignatius College Prep and her other two daughters attend St. John Fisher.

**Favorite Part of Being a part of SJF:** For Claire, it's exciting to see some of the new technology and curriculum investments that will enable the teachers to make an even better impact. It's a hardworking and collaborative team and she loves having her children at SJF with her now too!



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*Ms. Elena Cermak, Director Religious Education*

**Background:** Mrs. Cermak has happily served the parish and school at SJF for many years. She leads religious education including planning the daily prayers, school masses, prayer services, and celebration of the sacraments. She is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and, as the 2nd of 8 children of a faith filled family. She holds a Master of Arts in Divinity at the University of Chicago, followed by a Doctor of Ministry degree at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake - (Mundelein Seminary). Ms. Cermak earned a B.A. in history and theology from Duquesne University while on full four-year scholarship as an Eastern European folk dancer and musician in a performing ensemble which travelled 33,000 miles, throughout the United States, on a bus. Since that time, she has been to all 50 states.

**Falcon Pride:** Celebrating the Sacraments with our students and their families is the most important part of her job and she aims to make each experience special.

**More about Ms. Cermak:** She has extensive teachings and leadership experience including in the Archdiocesan Teacher Religion Certification. In 2005, she received the heart of the school from Cardinal 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 full of 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 Being a part of SJF:** Working with your children in our wonderful faith-filled-family of Saint John Fisher brings great joy daily. Every year is exciting with the students, principal, staff, priests, teachers and parents of our great community.