

MEET OUR SJF DYNAMIC EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM



Mrs. Mary Donna Caffrey, Preschool Teacher

Background: Mrs. Caffrey has been a teacher at SJF for 24 years and loves it! She began as a Preschool teacher and has also taught Fourth Grade and Kindergarten. She has a BA in Education from St. Mary's University and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Falcon Pride: She attended Catholic School all her life and is committed to Catholic Education. Her two children are graduates of SJF. During her time here, she has been the Moderator for the SOAR Organization and assisted with the Drama Club.

More About Mrs. Caffrey: Mary Donna is a big White Sox Fan and works at the Park during the summer. She also loves spending time with her family.

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: There are many special events in our early childhood program that are so fun and memorable from Mother's Day Tea to 100th Day of School to St. Francis Day to Field Trips to Christmas shows. Always something for the children to look forward to (and the teacher's too)!



Mrs. Margie Sefcik, Preschool Assistant

Background: Margie Sefcik joined the St. John Fisher Family in 2019. After working 12 years in the fitness industry she is thrilled to be working in the preschool program. She comes from a family that is passionate about teaching. She earned her BA from St. Xavier University.

Falcon Pride: Mrs. Sefcik loves the culture at SJF. It's so nice to be part of such a wonderful community. She loves how the older students at SJF take such pride in helping our preschoolers learn such as Art projects and Prayer partners. The preschoolers love it too!

More about Mrs. Sefcik: In her spare time she coaches club volleyball. Margie loves sports, reading, outdoor activities and spending time with her husband and three boys.

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: Margie enjoys every aspect of aiding in the classroom, loves engaging with the children and feels great satisfaction from seeing them learn and grow!

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Ms. Sue Power, Preschool Teacher

Background: This will be Ms. Power's 21st year of teaching as an Early Childhood Educator. She has taught Kindergarten and Second grade but has spent most of her years in Preschool and it's a joy! She received her bachelor's and master's Degrees in Education from St. Xavier University.

Falcon Pride: Sue is very proud to say that all of her years teaching have been within the Catholic Schools and feels so lucky to have joined the early childhood team at SJF! She enjoys professional development classes and learning new techniques from her fellow teachers to incorporate in her classroom. It's a pleasure to be a part of this team!

More about Ms. Power: She lives in Evergreen Park where she raised four amazing children. Attending Catholic School herself and having a strong faith in God, she was able to pass that tradition on to her own children. She's experienced first-hand the positive impact of a Catholic Education has on her own children's success and feels so fortunate and grateful! She takes pride in being a part of your child's success as their preschool teacher. In my spare time, she loves to spend time with my family, search recipes and cook a great dinner, read a good book, garden, take walks and catch up with my friends.

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: "Getting to be there from the beginning of my students' first learning experience in a school setting. There is no greater reward than being a part of their world and getting to see things through their eyes as they investigate, discover and socially interact with their classmates."

Mrs. Lisa Healy, Preschool Assistant

Background: Lisa has been a part of the St. John Fisher Preschool Program for 6 years and has loved every minute of it! She is also a part of the SJF community.

Falcon Pride: She loves the culture of SJF. She takes pride in meeting and getting to know the children and their families to ensure a great experience for all. Seeing the students get excited as they learn new things in our classroom, meet new friends, and learn about Jesus makes Mrs. Healy so happy and that is clear as she starts and ends each day with a smile!

More about Mrs. Healy: She and her husband, Joe, and live in Evergreen Park and have two wonderful, adult sons and she is so proud to say that her whole family are products of Catholic education. Her younger son graduated from St. John Fisher School. Outside of school, she loves to read, bike, and bake. She is also a big White Sox fan

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Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: “I thank God every day that I am a part of St. John Fisher School. It is such a blessing for me that I get to interact with the preschool children and watch how they learn, grow and change every day.”



Katie Altman, Preschool Teacher

Background: Katie has 25 years of teaching experience and brings creativity, patience and joy to the classroom. She is passionate about learning and enriching young minds engaging in hands on experiences. Katie earned her BA from St. Xavier University and has a certificate in Early Childhood and Elementary education.

Falcon Pride: Katie teaches our after school ETC program which is an enrichment program where children have fun with their friends while exploring areas of interest not always covered in the curriculum. She also developed our Little Explorers Early Childhood Summer Program where children are introduced to the building blocks of formal education.

More about Mrs. Altman: In her free time, Katie enjoys spending time with her husband and being a mother to their three wonderful children.

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: Katie truly loves working with children of all ages with experience teaching in first, third, fifth grade and preschool. She feels fortunate to be in a profession where she is able to guide and observe children at such a fundamental and important developmental stage in their growth.



Annmarie Lindgren, Preschool Assistant

Background: Annmarie joined our team in 2015 after staying home to care for her family. Prior, Annmarie earned her BA and BSN from St. Xavier University.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her husband and their four wonderful children. She also enjoys reading, running and yoga.

Falcon Pride: Ms. Lindgren feels lucky to be in such an important role. She acknowledges the importance of working with young children, so she is constantly seeking new skill-based activities to keep the children engaged in the learning process. Annmarie’s gentle and caring nature allows the little ones to always be happy in her presence.

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More about Mrs. Lindgren: In her free time she enjoys spending time with her husband and their four wonderful children. She also enjoys reading, running and yoga.

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: Anmarie feels so blessed to work with children at the start of their educational journey and help them to understand and attain some of the most basic and foundational academic, social, cognitive and emotional concepts.



Katie Fadden, Preschool Teacher

Background: Katie is in her ninth year of teaching Preschool at St. John Fisher and truly loves teaching this age group. Her mom and grandma were also Early Childhood educators so teaching young learners definitely runs in their genes! Prior to teaching, Katie attended St. Germaine School, Mother McAuley High School and Saint Mary's of Notre Dame where she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and minors in Reading and Early Childhood Education. She is passionate about reading with children and has worked with the Scholastic Book Company over the last decade as a Teacher Advisor.

Falcon Pride: Katie is so happy to be able to teach at such a welcoming, incredible school as St John Fisher. She takes pride in meeting each student and family that joins the SJF family and has great excitement knowing that they are embarking on the best journey in becoming part of the SJF community!

More about Ms. Fadden: In her free time, Ms. Fadden loves to read books, FaceTime with her nieces Molly and Maddie who live in Texas, vacation to Florida and spend time with her wonderful family and friends. Katie's family is also avid Northwestern fans, her brother's alma mater, and love to tailgate and attend football games in the fall - Go 'Cats!

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: Preschool is such a magical time filled with exciting learning, new friendships and of course, lots and lots of fun! Katie is so proud to be a teacher at SJF surrounded by the most incredible students, families and coworkers.

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Beth Furlong, Preschool Assistant

Background: Beth joined the preschool team in 2015 and was thrilled to partner with Ms. Katie Fadden. Previously, she attended Saint Xavier University for a bachelors and received a masters at Governors State University in speech pathology. She worked at a rehab facility as well as Tinley park school district as a speech pathologist for a couple years after getting married and then stayed home to raise her five children.

Falcon Pride: Beth was raised in St. John Fisher and was third of 10 in the King family, 7 girls & 3 boys. She absolutely loves SJF and even met her future husband here.

More about Ms. Fadden: She is blessed with two girls and three boys; Jenna(24), Kevin(23), Michael(20), Lily(17) & Patrick (16). She strongly believes in the value of Catholic education and witnessed our kids benefit from the education they received at Most Holy Redeemer, Mother McAuley, and Brother Rice. Not only did they gain a vast amount of knowledge, but they learned the importance of faith, empathy, and compassion.

Favorite Part of Being a Part of SJF Early Childhood Team: "Together we enjoy watching three and four-year-olds grow and are in constant awe of their curiosity and inquisitiveness. I am so grateful to be a part of the fisher faculty and witness the wonderful educators and the extent in which they go to develop your wonderful children as both students and individuals!"

