



# St. Patrick School Staff

## Carleton, Michigan



**Carl Lenze**

**Principal:** Carl Lenze attended Saint Bernardine of Seina elementary school in Westland through the 4th grade and then transferred to Saint Raphael in Garden City where he was confirmed in 8th grade. He graduated from Livonia Franklin High School and earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees at Eastern Michigan University, with a major in History and English Language and Literature and his Teaching Certificate. After teaching for ten years, Carl went on to earn his Education Specialist degree at Wayne State University in Educational Leadership. He taught at Garden City Junior High School for ten years and then at the High School for twenty-one years before retiring from public education and coming to Saint Patrick in the fall of 2016. In Garden City, Carl was the sponsor of the Christian Club for over 20 years. Carl has been married for 29 years and raised a family of six children.



**Kathy Gaynier**

**4 year old Pre-K & Young 5s Teacher:** Hello, my name is Kathy Gaynier. I have been blessed to be going on my 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching here at St. Patrick's school. I have worked with the lower elementary students in Catholic schools for over 20 years. I have been teaching preschool for 15 years. I live in South Rockwood with my husband Dave. We have two wonderful children, Nichole who lives locally and our son Jeremy, who lives in San Diego. We also have three very active grandchildren. Nicholas and David who are 7yrs old and Kadence who is 4yrs old. Dave and I love to travel, so you can find us on the road any chance we get.



**Karen Schenavar**

**3/4-year-old Pre-K Teacher:** Hello, my name is Karen Schenavar. Even though I am retired, I love teaching. I am privileged to be teaching part time in the 3/4 year old preschool and tutoring students here at St Patrick's School. I am a lifetime resident of Monroe, a Graduate of SMCC and Western Michigan University with a Masters in Reading. Looking forward to meeting my students. Say hi when you see me in the hall.



**Lisa Kemmerling**

**3/4-year-old Pre-K Teacher:** I am honored and thrilled to be a part of St. Patrick School this year returning as a Preschool Teacher. St. Patrick School has been my second home since 1991. Throughout the years I have taught 2nd Grade, Kindergarten and various other subjects from K-8. I proudly began the Preschool Playgroup in 2005 and helped establish the Preschool Program as the Director along with being the Preschool Teacher in 2007. I am a graduate of Monroe High School and The University of Toledo with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood with a ZA Endorsement. I attended Eastern Michigan University accumulating 18 hours towards my Master's Degree in Reading. My husband Ken and I have been married 31 years and are blessed with 3 daughters who are graduates of St. Patrick School and SMCC. Our oldest Rose has a Master's Degree in Public Health and our twins Grace and Brooke are freshmen at the University of Findlay. In my free time I enjoy watching University of Michigan Football and the Detroit Tigers, spending time with family, traveling, shopping, walking, and preparing food for Oaks of Righteousness in Monroe. Monroe.



**Tony Vincentini    Nikita Newkirk**

**Pre -K Aides:** Mr. Vincentini or "Mr. V." as the children call him, and Mrs. Newkirk support the Pre-K class throughout the week. They bring 30+ years of teaching experience, specializing in special education our Pre-School Aides enrich our preschooler's experience. In addition to supporting in the classroom Tony & Nikita also help at Recess.



**Anna Miller**

**Kindergarten Teacher:** Hi! My name is Anna Miller. I am the kindergarten teacher. I am so delighted to be a part of St. Patrick Catholic School. Being around Catholic school my whole life, I am excited to give back and start children out on the right foot!

I went to high school at SMCC where I graduated in 2016. After high school, I graduated from the University of Toledo in December 2020 with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

This summer, I also got married to my best friend and High School Sweetheart. We also have a puppy named Bower who is my pride and joy! In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and going on walks.



**Jessica Jones**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher:** I am excited to be a St. Pat's Giant, officially accepting a position to join the already fantastic team of professionals assembled to educate our children. God has been tugging me more and more in the direction of the school to share my abilities and strengths within this community. I was raised in Carleton, MI and have resided within a 15-minute radius for my entire life. I am a Catholic Convert, having received all my sacraments with Father John Hedges of New Boston. I married Benjamin Jones in 2009 and we have nine children; Abigail (12), Isabelle (10), Robert (9), Margaret (8), Olivia (7), Amelia (5), Benjamin (4), Thomas (3), and Kathleen (1). I have been classroom managing an early elementary classroom for the better part of a decade, typically with a toddler and baby in tow. My family and I are members of Divine Grace Parish and St. Mary's the Annunciation of Rockwood. I have spent my professional career outside of the home serving underprivileged families in the inner city for the past 17 years. I am truly blessed and honored to join Carl's team of educators and I look forward to seeing what Jesus does in our school community this year and for many years to come.



**Tela Geiger**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher:** I am thrilled and truly blessed to be your child's teacher this school year. I have spent time in classrooms ranging from Preschool up to 8th grade. Over the past decade I have found that spending my time with the early elementary students is where I find my heart overflowing with delight as they are such a joy to spend time with. I live in Erie with my husband Nathan and three children Mary (17), Jonathon (14) and Maggie (12). Nathan is a Special Education Teacher at Melvindale High School, Mary attends the University of Toledo, Jonathon is a Freshman at St. Mary Catholic Central High School and Maggie is in 7th grade at Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools. I am an active member of St. Michael Parish in Monroe where I serve as a member of the Finance Council. After earning my BSBA in Finance at Central Michigan University I spent 15 years in the Financial Advising Industry before making the decision to stay home full time with my family. During that time, I was a substitute teacher for Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools and in the Monroe County Public Schools. I come to St. Patrick School through the Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow program. After completing coursework preparing me for the classroom, I will now earn my teaching certificate through a mentorship program teaching second grade here at St. Patrick School.



**Robert Lothian**

**3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher:** I am a Leo 8/19, My Wife is Amanda & I have 2 Child Robert (RJ) & Reagan. When I was in Elementary & Middle School for being on the Honor Roll my Mom & Dad would take me to dinner at Chi-Chis in Southgate. My father (Robert Allen) was an Alter Boy and active member of St Joseph's Parish in Trenton, MI. I attended Catechism, 1st Communion & Confirmation at St Timothy's. I Graduated from Trenton HS in 2001. Graduated B.A. History, Sociology/Criminology & Education.

I didn't learn to Love-Education until well after I had Graduated College. Formal School bored me, still does at times. If I'm bored then the Ss are and if there's no interest, then there is no learning occurring. Creativity, Imagination and Faith are my 3 main Pillars of my classroom. It's important to note that the Leaders of our Community for the next 3/4 of a Century will be in my classroom, I Cherish that. The atmosphere in my classroom is Project Based Learning, open dialogue to create balanced ideas. The Ss who normally dislike School will love my class, I am the teacher I needed in school. My One Rule set in stone is to have respect for everyone in the Classroom and that starts with yourself and self-respect. Faith. Family.



**Timothy Bolster**

**5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher:** Mr. Bolster began teaching at St. Patrick School in 2017 after 12 years as a public-school elementary teacher. He also serves as the Director of Religious Education for Divine Grace Parish. Fifth and Sixth grade students encounter Jesus daily through Scripture, prayer, and song. We are focused on growing in virtue and joining the movement to Unleash the Gospel in the Archdiocese of Detroit. We learn using a variety of resources, from textbooks to Chromebooks, attuning our senses, applying our intellect, and directing our imagination to all that is true, good, and beautiful. We are anchored in the wisdom of classical Catholic tradition while drawing from the best of contemporary practices in education.



**Karla Hinkle**

**7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher:** I have been a member of the St Patrick School Family for five years as a parent. In September 2021, God provided for me for the second time, the answer of where I belong and where I can use the gifts, he has graced upon me. In October 2021, I accepted the position of 7th/8th grade teacher for St Patrick School. I am extremely excited to have joined the St. Patrick's Faculty and I look forward to serving God, the Church and the school in my new role as a Junior High Teacher.

I have a Master of Science from Eastern Michigan and a Bachelor of General Studies from Oakland University. I have been an active member of St Michael the Archangel Parish since my baptism. I have received all my sacraments including matrimony to my husband, Joseph Hinkle III, at St Michaels. I have served St Michaels as a CYO Coach, CYO Athletic Director and Eucharist Minister. I live in Monroe, where I was born and raised, with my husband and children (Cassandra (21), Joseph IV (20), Kyree (13) and Raven (11)). I enjoy spending time with my family and pets (Gizmo, Halo, Angelica, Lucifer, Libby and Jackie). I am a sports fanatic. I serve as the Monroe Area CYO Coordinator responsible for the volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball program for our Monroe County Vicariate Parishes and Schools.



**Maureen  
Wickenheiser**

**Science Teacher:** Hello, My name is Maureen Wickenheiser. I live in Carleton on our family farm with my husband, Joe. I have 3 children Emily, Sydney, and Ryan and a wonderful daughter-in-law, Chelsea. I am a BIG football fan! I also enjoy watching baseball, cooking, reading, and spending time playing with my grand-daughter, Rowan.

I attended the University of Michigan (both undergraduate and graduate), Marygrove, and the University of Detroit-Mercy. I am a NASA Globe teacher. I have been a guest lecturer at Eastern Michigan University in the Reading Masters Program, am a Teacher Trainer for Differentiated Instruction, and have served on the State of Michigan Test for Teacher Certification Social Studies Review Committee. In 2018 I was Blessed to be named the Agricultural Teacher of the Year by the State of Michigan and be recognized at the National Level.

This is my 28th year teaching. I have been in Catholic School Education for the past 27years. I am a certified Catechist and have completed the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1. I previously taught at St. Charles Borromeo in Newport and at Our Lady Queen of Angels in Detroit before coming to St. Patrick.

My philosophy for learning is that each child is unique and learns in a different way. I believe my job as a teacher is to help children discover their individuality and work with them to maximize it. My goal is to instill a passion for reading, writing, problem solving, and project-based learning across the curriculum in my students as well as to create a community of learners who are committed to working hard and feeling challenged. I want students to leave my classroom feeling confident that they can apply what they've learned in school to real-life situations.



**Kelly Varcie**

**School Secretary:** Hello my name is Kelly Varcie and I started working at St. Patrick's in July 2017 as the school administrative assistant. I grew up in Taylor where I met my husband. Jim and I have been together for over 35 years and have 2 wonderful sons, Jake and Josh, 2 adorable grandsons, Grayson and Easton and our first granddaughter Esmay. We have lived in Huron Twp. for over 26 years where both of our sons graduated from. I am truly blessed in my life with my family and now with my St. Pat's family. I love my job, the students, parents, and staff!!!



**Jerry Hoffman**  
*School Custodian & Lunch*

## **Specials Teachers**

Mr. Pivetta - Latin

Ms. Treber – Music\*

Ms. Maher – Art\*

TBA - Speech

Mr. Watkins - Physical Education\*

Mr. Bezeau – Technology\*

\*Provided by Airport Schools