

Who's New

For the 2019-20 school year, SRS welcomes and introduces new staff. With a background in political science and experience teaching sixth-grade social studies in the Harford County Public Schools, John Henderson, a participant in the ADW certification cohort, joins the middle-school team to teach social studies and seventh-grade religion. Originally from Syracuse, New York, Andrew Price is our physical-education teacher and SPARK instructor who formerly played on the men's soccer team while at Canisius College and also taught third grade at Our Lady of Victory in Washington, D.C.,

for 11 years.

Already familiar to us at SRS, Potomac-native and mom of three children in the school, Molly Nagel brings experience in special and elementary education while serving as resource teacher and assisting as librarian. And for the second half of the year, Rebecca Maurer, back to the D.C. area and expecting her first baby in September, will be returning as SRS music and drama teacher. Also returning is Patty Timm as 4-Plus assistant at St. Raphael Nursery School, having previously worked as a teacher's aide at Montgomery Blair High School, SRNS, and St. Elizabeth School.

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St. Raphael School's theme for the new school year – Shine! – celebrates not only recent accolades received locally and nationally but also reflects on the goodness that is the core of SRS.

St. Raphael Shine!

By Nina Cardillo

This year's St. Raphael theme – Shine! – is a celebration of merits and a reflection of who we are and whose we are...a celebration of the honors received last year for distinguished teaching and leadership awarded by the Archdiocese of Washington as well as the National Catholic Educational

Association. And a celebration of student excellence recognized through scholarships granted to our graduates and achievement of honor roll and honor society by our middle-school students.

We shine, too, with our love for God and His goodness within us, focusing on being children of God and becoming the best versions of ourselves. At St. Raphael, this *shine*

is reflected by committing to God's work in each of us and together, beginning and ending every school day with prayer as we offer to Jesus "all that we think, say, and do" at Morning Prayer and examine our conscience at dismissal with the Act of Contrition. To God be the glory, St. Raphael shine!

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Photo by Susan Wooten

The band is back together: Patty Timm, right, and Susan Wooten reunite this year in St. Raphael Nursery School's 4-Plus Program. Timm assisted Wooten for five years earlier in her career and returns to the familiar role.

What's Ahead

Aug. 27 **Opening Mass** and festivities kick off the new school year.
Sept. 27 **Grandparent's Day**

welcomes grandparents to a special Mass with Archbishop Wilton Gregory, classroom visits, and light reception.

Sept. 29 **St. Raphael Parish Picnic** celebrates our parish feast day with fellowship and food.

Sept. 30 **St. Raphael Golf Classic** remembers Fr. Bill Finch with a day of golf and memorial reception.

Oct. 19 **Angels on the Run 5K** and kids' runs – proceeds benefit the school!

Oct. 21 **SRS K-8 Open House** invites interested parents to a presentation and tour of our campus.

For details about these events and more, visit our website: www.straphaelschoolmd.org

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PRO-LIFE

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as long as it is legally within the state-imposed fetal age limit. With increasing concern on the growing disregard for the life of the unborn, I have consciously explored ways to work for the promotion of "respect for life at all stages."

When my husband, Alfonso, joined the Knights of Columbus at St. Michael the Archangel (Council 15084), he was invited to come on First Saturdays and to pray the rosary outdoors as part of the council's life-activity projects. Serendipitously, he extended the invitation to me and, with curiosity, I accompanied him just to see the abortion clinic. Thinking this to be a short-term project, we slowly got

involved in the activity and thus, every first Saturday, I became a prayer-warrior with them.

Notwithstanding every Saturday, a group of members of the K of C and other like-minded fervent believers gather early in the morning in front of a clinic in Silver Spring. With the rosary as their defense, these amiable men from different parishes fight the "culture of death" by praying the four mysteries of the rosary. Some volunteers wear encouraging messages persuading the undecided clients to call a help line for support. While others walk around or just hand pamphlets, the prayer group continues the rosary with appropriate prayers-of-supplication recited between mysteries for the unwanted/unborn fetuses fighting for life. Among this group are members

of our parish at Church of the Resurrection.

As I observe the volunteers, I begin to learn many other ways to share my knowledge and skills as a retired ultrasound educator to use in working for this movement. In conversation with women volunteers, I get introduced to other interesting activities of the pro-life movement. More recently, at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Gaithersburg, my husband and I volunteered to watch the pro-life booth equipped with materials that show the different stages of fetal development for kids to visualize life inside the mother. There are many more ways to promote the culture of life, and those who have been silent proponents are invited to be more active.

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