



**St. Sylvester School**  
30 West Willock, Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
412-882-9900 • Fax 412-882-0153  
[www.saintsyvesterschool.org](http://www.saintsyvesterschool.org)

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Dear Families,

My name is Stephanie Michael and I am extremely blessed and excited to introduce myself to you as the incoming principal at Saint Sylvester School! I come from a family that strongly believed in the benefits of Catholic education and am proud to say that all of my schooling has been via Catholic entities. I attended elementary school at All Saints Catholic School and high school at Bishop Carroll Catholic, both of which are located in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. I received both my undergraduate and master's degrees from Gannon University located in Erie, Pennsylvania. My undergraduate degree is in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and my master's degree is in Curriculum and Instruction. I am also certified to teach Mid-level Mathematics and have my Provisional Administrative K-12 certificate.

I had the wonderful experience of teaching first grade at All Saints Catholic School directly upon graduating, and then moved to Pittsburgh in the summer of 2011 after marrying my husband, Zachary. I was privileged to accept a teaching position at Young Scholars of Western PA Charter School (YSWPCS), located in Baldwin Township, during the summer of 2011 and have been employed there for the past seven years. I began as an inclusive fifth grade teacher, and then as we expanded, I began teaching specific subject areas to the fourth and fifth grade band including math, science, and social studies. Throughout the years, I also had the opportunity to hold multiple leadership positions including Reading Coordinator, Science Committee Head, and PBIS School Coach, which led me to accepting my administrative role at YSWPCS in the summer of 2016 (just a few weeks after welcoming my son Elijah into the world). My role for the past two years at YSWPCS has been Coordinator of Student Discipline – a fancy way of saying Vice Principal. In that role, I served as supervisor of the counseling and behavior staff, implemented restorative justice practices in disciplinary procedures, managed student attendance, and continued my role as PBIS Coach.

In my interview with the Saint Sylvester search committee, I told them that becoming the principal at a Catholic school was always my goal to achieve. I have experienced the benefits of a Catholic education and attribute my successes to it. What was missing in my experience at YSWPCS was the ability to openly profess my faith and grow in that faith with the school community. From what I have heard and experienced so far, the SSS community is welcoming and engaged, and I truly look forward to meeting all of you and building relationships, so that I too can become part of the community and offer my gifts to benefit growth and continued excellence.

In the coming weeks, I hope to be able to meet each of you and learn about your families and your “whys” for choosing Catholic education. I would be happy to tell you more of my background and work to build a communal partnership.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Michael*

Mrs. Stephanie Michael  
Principal  
St. Sylvester School  
[smichael@saintsyvesterschool.org](mailto:smichael@saintsyvesterschool.org)  
412-882-9900 ext. 223