

Dear OLC Families,

It was a great pleasure to spend yesterday (2/27) at the school. The day started with Mass and then I was able to visit classrooms and meet students, teachers, and some parents. I answered a lot of questions from students and a few from teachers so I thought I would take a moment to share some of those questions and answers here so that you can begin to get to know a little about me. Here are some of the most common questions from my visit yesterday:



What is your favorite color? I really like green, but blue is a close second.

Do you like sports and will you join us at recess? Yes. I like watching my nieces and nephews play soccer and basketball. I also enjoy watching football. I played soccer and did water sports (swim team, water polo, and synchronized swimming) growing up. Yes, I look forward to recess, especially learning how to play 9 Square!

What other jobs have you had? I taught middle school math and science for 12 years at Corpus Christi in Holland. I was at All Saints Academy Upper Campus (St Jude) for 6 years, first as a Dean and science teacher and then as the Upper Campus building leader. I have taught some math classes at Aquinas College, and I currently teach one class for teachers at Notre Dame in the summer. Most recently I worked for the Program for Inclusive Education at Notre Dame supporting Catholic school teachers from around the country. This year as I looked to get back into a K-12 school setting I have been subbing in a few West Michigan Catholic schools, and am supervising some student teachers for Aquinas College.

Why OLC? I have a fondness for schools with Mary as their patron. I went to St Mary Catholic School in Spring Lake 1st-8th grade. I have a masters degree from Notre Dame, Our Lady's University. So to make this next step into another community named after Mary feels like coming home in a way. Additionally, I spent a few summers in Rockford when I was a student at Aquinas, and I volunteered for a year in the Confirmation program and for a few mission trips at OLC. So I am thrilled to move back into the area to reconnect with old friends and to invest more permanently into getting to know and grow with the OLC and Rockford community.

Will we be able to keep traditions like Catholic Schools Week? What do you plan to change? One of the reasons I wanted to get back into a K-12 school setting is because I missed things like Catholic Schools week and all of the other events that make Catholic schools so special. I certainly want to honor and continue the traditions of OLC and as I learn those traditions, perhaps add a few of my own little ideas and touches here and there.

My goal for these first days, weeks, and even months with you will be to learn about and support the great things already happening at OLC! Probably the most noticeable change will simply be

the fact that I am not Mr. Varner and I will do things slightly differently, only because I come with slightly different skills and experiences. I have known Mr. Varner a long time and have great respect for him as an educator, so I suspect you will see some similarities between us as you get to know me.

One of my root beliefs as an educator is that we can all grow! I am excited to bring my skills and interest to OLC to support the continued growth of this amazing community. I hope that you will also support me in my growth as we all strive to become the best versions of ourselves and work together to better know, love, and serve God.

Many of you have shared that you are praying for me. Know that I am praying for you as well!

Miss Giroux (Miss G.)