2017-18 Faculty/Staff Updates

As previously announced, **Anna Bachman Barter** joined us August 1 as the new Director of Upper School. Anna worked most recently at Berkshire School in Sheffield, Massachusetts and is thrilled to be “closer to home”, as a graduate of Lourdes High School in Rochester and the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. Anna also earned a master's degree from Dartmouth College, and an additional master's and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role and we look forward to having Anna on the administrative team.

**Genevieve Burke** will be taking on the role of Montessori preschool PE teacher. She is excited to share her love of fun and fitness one period a week to our littlest ones. Gen is a current and alum parent and was a favorite PE substitute teacher throughout the 2016-17 school year.

**Martha Conners** will be returning to her post as Lower School PE teacher. We are delighted that our Lower School families will benefit from the multiple gifts of this wise and talented teacher. And all of us will be blessed to regain Martha as a colleague. Welcome back Martha.

We welcome **Victoria De la Torre** as the LS and MS Spanish teacher. Victoria has worked as a classroom teacher at the elementary, middle and university levels; working with beginning learners as well as honors students. Victoria has also spent time tutoring students one-on-one and most recently taught in Visitation’s summer school program, Transfiguration Catholic School, and the University Language Center.

The Middle School is excited to welcome **Steve Dornbach** as an English and Social Studies teacher, and Instructional Specialist. Steve comes with 25 years of experience, most recently as the Principal and Dean of Students at Loyola Catholic School in Mankato. He has also worked with Youth Frontiers as director of their teacher development program and has experience abroad working at schools in South Korea, Japan, and Belize. Steve has a BA in English from St. John's University and an MA in Teaching from the University of St. Thomas.

**Maegan Earnest** will also join our Middle School faculty as a Social Studies and Religion teacher. Maegan has served as an educator for 13 years, most of which have been spent at St. Ambrose Catholic School in Woodbury. She brings an exceptional skillset in curricular design as well as instructional innovation to our growing team. Maegan has a BA in Education from the College of Charleston and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Bethel University.

**Cecilia Petschel** will be joining the Advancement Team as the Web and Communications Specialist. She holds a BA from the University of St. Thomas in print journalism combined with an English minor and over 15 years’ experience in communications. Most recently, she has served as a consultant for Wells Fargo and worked for the Minnesota Private College Council. Her daughter, Lucy, will also be joining Visitation this fall as a member of the seventh grade class.

The LS team welcomes **Sarah Ritzenthaler** as the new third grade teacher. Sarah is deeply committed to teaching within a Catholic environment. She taught elementary and middle school students for a decade at All Saints School in Lakeville and has been working in Visitation’s Middle School since 2015. Sarah is
dedicated to helping students hone their critical thinking while they embrace curiosity, creativity and innovation.

We are pleased to announce Melissa Wagner as the new manager of our food services department. Melissa brings many years of extensive experience in planning, preparation and production - most recently running a successful personal chef and catering business from her home. Melissa is a graduate of the College of St. Benedict and the Western Culinary Institute.

Anne Weiss will be our Montessori Preschool Assistant Teacher. Anne has been teaching at Visitation since March as the long-term substitute Spanish teacher in LS. She holds a BA in Early Childhood Development, and has taught or been an assistant teacher at both the preschool and elementary levels. Anne understands the importance of the Catholic faith tradition in education, having taught at two St. Paul Catholic schools.