

Padua Press

August 11, 2019

Upcoming Events

August 13

Parent Orientation Night
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

August 14

Altar Server Training - 8:15 am
Grades 4th - 6th

August 15

Feast of the Assumption
All School Mass - 8:15 am
Dress Uniform Required

New Parents' Breakfast after Mass
All Parents are Welcome

August 21

School Pictures
Dress Uniform Required

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL STA CALENDAR](#)

Welcome Back Eagles!

We have enjoyed having our halls filled with laughter once again! The first two days of school have been great!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to all parent volunteers who participated in St. Anthony's Back-to-School event. It was a wonderful evening and a great start to STA's Best Year Ever! The fun-filled, Hollywood-themed event was enjoyed by all. Many famous celebrities were seen walking the red carpet and posing for paparazzi photos.

PARENT ORIENTATION NIGHT - AUGUST 13, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Please make plans to attend. Orientation begins at 6:00 pm in the gym and is not structured as a "come and go" event. There will be two 30-minute sessions in the classrooms for those who have more than one child at St. Anthony.

NEW TEACHING FACULTY

We are excited to see so many new faces at St. Anthony this year. In addition to many new students, we have two teachers new to the school - Jennifer Dukes and Amanda Jones. Two faculty/staff members have taken on new roles this year - Anne Cowger and Amy D'Alfonso.

SPOTLIGHT ON ST. ANTHONY'S NEW PRINCIPAL, MRS. ANNE COWGER

Mrs. Cowger has been a life-long supporter of Catholic education. She has taught at St. Anthony since the school opened in 2009.

Mrs. Cowger was born and raised in New Orleans. She attended Catholic elementary, high school, and college. Mrs. Cowger graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of New Orleans (UNO) and has a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UNO. Mrs. Cowger taught at various schools and also worked in early intervention before joining the faculty at St. Anthony.

When asked what her vision for St. Anthony is, these were her thoughts, "As we enter our second decade, I think it is time that St. Anthony is no longer the 'best kept secret in Madison County.' I want people to know who we are and what we do. I want the community to see us as strong academicians, intellectuals, leaders, and thinkers who use our gifts and talents to serve. Most importantly, I want the community to see us as disciples of Christ by the love we show for God by our actions and how we treat one another."

"I believe that it is our responsibility as an elementary school to lay a strong foundation with the basics. This means building strong readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Our children need to have good number sense and be fluent in basic computation/math skills. Then, we can build on this foundation, leading our students to become critical thinkers and doers."

"We want students to know the world in which they live and see the endless possibilities that it offers - seeing that they can do whatever they set their mind to, solving problems with fortitude and endurance. Through the arts, our students are led to find and appreciate beauty and the things of this world that fill the soul. In this way, we lead our students to know, to love, and to serve God, modeling Christ in all that we do. As a Catholic Christian school, this is our ultimate goal."

Mrs. Cowger went on to say, "St. Anthony has many strengths, among them we excel in recognizing that the whole child comes to school. We aim to develop not only the intellect, but to feed the body and the soul. We recognize that each individual is unique and brings his/her special gifts and talents to our community. We celebrate one another's uniqueness and help one another to use their strengths to grow. Every student does not follow the same path to success, and at St. Anthony, I believe that we are very good at nurturing the individual so that each student can fulfill his/her highest potential. Sometimes this means taking extra time to find methods and techniques to help a struggling student. At other times, it means providing enrichment for students who excel. Ultimately, it means taking the time to know each child and each family on a personal level."

Mrs. Cowger said several exciting changes are coming to St. Anthony. In addition to expanding our early childhood program to include a K3 class, we are enhancing our outdoor learning space. She also said we will continue to build our school community with opportunities for families to gather for fun and fellowship outside of the regular school day. We are also planning to strengthen our relationships with the other Catholic schools and parishes in our community.

Mrs. Cowger is married to David, who is a golf professional. They have three children - Sean and Chris, who live in Colorado - and Katherine, who is a senior at St. Joseph Catholic School. Her family attends St. Francis Catholic Church.

FACTS MANAGEMENT FOR STUDENT & FAMILY INFORMATION AND ALL PAYMENTS

As most of you know, St. Anthony and the other Catholic schools in the Jackson Diocese transitioned to a new database and payment system over the summer - FACTS Management. While this will allow for many improvements in the long run, it has caused some inconveniences in the short run. We apologize for this, and we thank you for your patience during this implementation period. Please contact us if you are having trouble logging on, accessing information, or are not receiving email communications from the school. We are here to help you.

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ST. ANTHONY'S NEW TEACHERS

Amy D'Alfonso is the teacher for our new K3 class. Ms. Amy joined the St. Anthony staff last year. She has a Master of Arts degree in Speech Language Pathology from the University of Tennessee. Her background is in childhood development. Ms. Amy has worked in various schools in early intervention and speech language therapy and with children of all ages, but she has a special place in her heart for the little ones. Amy and her husband, Brian, have two children - Ainsley and Matthew. Their family attends St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Jennifer Dukes is St. Anthony's new 4th grade math, science, and religion teacher. In addition, she will teach Forte. Mrs. Dukes has previously taught 4th grade at Holy Trinity in Illinois and 4th and 5th grade math and science in the Oxford school system in Oxford, MS. Jennifer received her undergraduate degree from University of the South in Seawee and her Master of Education degree from Vanderbilt University. She and her husband, William, and their two children, James and Charles, attend St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

We also welcome Amanda Jones and her four children - Colby, Chase, Josie, and Livi - to St. Anthony. Mrs. Jones has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi College. She also has several certifications including Sign Language Instructor and Certified Positive Discipline Classroom Educator. Amanda is St. Anthony's new 5th and 6th grade reading/language arts teacher. She is also teaching 6th grade social studies and religion. Amanda and her husband, Chris, and their children attend St. Richard Catholic Church.



Mrs. Amy D'Alfonso and Mrs. Anne Cowger



Mrs. Jennifer Dukes and Mrs. Amanda Jones



St. Anthony Faculty and Staff 2019 - 2020 School Year

KROGER & AMAZON SMILES FUNDRAISING

Designating St. Anthony as the non-profit of your choice when you shop at Kroger is super easy and very beneficial to our school. When you link your Kroger plus shopper's card to St. Anthony, we receive a percentage of all purchases made. This doesn't affect your Kroger fuel points. It's just an added benefit Kroger provides to communities. Shoppers have to re-enroll (designate St. Anthony as their choice) each year. Click here to register!

St. Anthony also participates in the Amazon Smiles program. Click here to get started. Or bookmark this link and use it each time you shop at Amazon so St. Anthony benefits from your purchases. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3324367>. Your Amazon Prime membership is not affected by shopping with the Amazon Smiles link. You don't have to be a Prime member to use the Amazon Smiles link.

Thank you to all who are participating in these great programs!