



St. Agnes Academy News

A PUBLICATION OF ST. AGNES ACADEMY, DALTON, MA

September 2019 • Issue 1

Principal – Fadia Makdisi

Principal Notes:



Welcome Back!

I'm thrilled to welcome everyone back for the 2019-2020 school year. I hope you all had a safe and happy summer vacation, filled with fun activities and leisure time to spend with your families.

It is my distinct honor to be your next principal and I look forward to advancing the St. Agnes mission

- instilling our students with a faith-filled education that teaches moral leadership and focuses on academic excellence and public service. I too have three daughters attending St. Agnes and I know the wonderful experience that is St. Agnes. We are blessed with a strong community including highly talented, experienced, and loving teachers, a supportive staff, and of course, Fr. Chris who provides unwavering support and believes in the vibrancy of a parochial school and the spirit it adds to the parish.

You, the parents and friends of St. Agnes, are vital stakeholders. You support the academy with all your heart and your support and volunteerism is what distinguishes this institution from all others in Berkshire County. We plan the addition of several new and exciting programs and activities including:

- new communications system
 - new staff members
 - new cafeteria management and menu
 - new after-school activities
 - new health education program
 - monthly assembly
 - writing workshops
 - coding and programming clubs
 - family nights
- And lots more

Parental involvement at all levels is what makes our school so unique and successful. Our students gain strength and confidence from the community within. I urge all families (to whatever extent possible) to join in this effort. I hope to build strong channels of communication so we together can address everyday issues while also looking to build for the future.

I welcome your thoughts and ideas. And always feel free to knock on my door, give me a call, or send me an email. Together, we will continue to build on our strong legacy while working to expand our mission, draw new energy, and ultimately attract new students to share in this great school experience. I wish you all a wonderful school year.

Fadia Rostom Makdisi
Principal

NEWS BITS...

New Staff Appointments

St. Agnes Academy announced the appointment of Catherine Salatino of Pittsfield to the Middle School teaching staff. Salatino began her career as a teacher in the parochial schools in



Berkshire County, teaching at St. Mary's School in Lee and St. Agnes School in Dalton. She also worked for many years at Allendale, Crosby, and Williams schools in Pittsfield. Salatino received a bachelor's degree in education from Worcester State College and a master's degree from North Adams State College.

... New Staff Appointments



Sally Capeless of Pittsfield has been named first grade teacher, replacing retiring teacher Margaret Shapiro. Capeless previously taught at St. Agnes for 13 years and later worked for 19 years in the Pittsfield public schools. She earned a bachelor's degree from Westfield State College in 1985.



The Academy has also named Susannah White Long as the new part-time school nurse. Long has experience in hospital-based nursing, outpatient clinics, as well as school nursing. Prior to earning her nursing degree, she worked as a student affairs and career counselor at the university level. Long holds an undergraduate degree from Vassar College, a M.Ed. in counseling from the University of Virginia, and a BS in nursing from Pace University.

New Cafeteria Services

Principal Fadia Rostom Makdisi has announced that Richie Powers and his wife Lisa will provide cafeteria services. Mr. Powers takes the kitchen reins from Chris Meunier, who was cafeteria manager for several years. Chris did a great job and we thank her for her dedication and great work in providing tasty and nutritious meals for our students.

Mr. Powers owns Amore Catering Co. in Pittsfield and has overseen cafeteria services for other schools in the past. We are excited to have Mr. Powers' expertise and look forward to great menus and nutritious foods.



Newsletter is Going Digital

Our information-packed monthly school newsletter will be distributed by email starting early October. Look for all the latest classroom updates, news, school activities, and upcoming schedules - all in color and delivered right to your inbox. Our school continues to do great things and this is an important tool to keep all parents, friends, and supporters updated on all the latest at St. Agnes Academy. We hope you enjoy the new format. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email fmakdisi@saintagnescc.com.