

Meet the Faculty and Staff of St. Rita Catholic School

Principal:

Reception: My name is Claudia Hernandez and I am the secretary of St. Rita Catholic School. This is my 3rd year to serve as secretary; I also served as Extended Care supervisor.



I live on the eastside of Fort Worth with my husband, Ambrocio. My children: Hazel graduated from St. Rita and is a senior at Nolan Catholic High School; Aimee also graduated from St. Rita and is a sophomore at Nolan. Currently my youngest, Michael is in the 7th grade. St. Rita has been a blessing to our family. We are very glad to be here! I look forward to serving you and your wonderful children.

Business Office: My name is Diane Hutto and I am the bookkeeper for St. Rita School. When I walked into St. Rita nine years ago, I had no idea what an important part of my life it would become. I love seeing the children on a daily basis and seeing their progress from year to year. Being involved with families and trying to help them achieve their goals of having their children at St. Rita has very special meaning to me. I am happy to be able to spend my time doing a job that I love!

Early Childhood:

Pre-K3: Hi! My name is Beth Nimz. I have been teaching school for 25 years. I've taught everything from two-year-olds to college sophomores. I have been teaching preschool for the last 15 years. I taught the four-year-old class at my previous school for 12 years and this is my third year to teach the three-year-olds at St. Rita's. I have eighteen-year-old twins who just started college. It is very quiet at my house now. I earned my Bachelor's degree in English from TWU in Denton and my son is now following in my footsteps. My daughter is attending Tarleton University in Stephenville. I am also the Director of Liturgy at St. Rita Church.

Pre-K4: Ilse Cuauhtli, I have been part of the St. Rita family for the last 5 years. I graduated with a Bachelor in Preschool Education in Mexico City where I am originally from. I have enjoyed working with 4 year olds for the last thirteen years. My daughter, Ilse Elena, attends Nolan Catholic High School and is a former St. Rita student. The Cuauhtli ladies have been parishioners of St. Rita Catholic Church for eight years. I really enjoy teaching the Pre-K4 angels.

Pre-K4: My name is Lacey Mobley, I am a St. Rita and Nolan Catholic School graduate. I graduated from Texas Wesleyan with my Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. I have been a St. Rita Church parishioner for over 20

years. I have been back at St. Rita as a teacher for 3 years and enjoy being a part of the Early Childhood program and working with my former teachers.

Kindergarten: Hello, my name is Evelyn Alemán and I'm the Kindergarten teacher of St. Rita Catholic School. This is my 2nd year to serve as Kindergarten teacher. I've taught Pre-K3 and 1st grade here at St. Rita as well as serving as extended care supervisor and school nurse and lunch coordinator.

I graduated from Republica de Colombia High School in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. I received an associate at the University of Puerto Rico; my BS in Bilingual Education is from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, TX.

I live on the eastside of Fort Worth with my mother (Abuela), and my twins Erikha and Malik. They have attended St. Rita since they were 3 years old. We have enjoyed these past 9 years at St. Rita, our second home. I also have an adult son, Christian, who is married and lives in Lavan, TX. He and his wife Monica both coach and teach high school biology in Garland.

I look forward to working with you as you entrust your child into my care. Kindergarten at St. Rita Catholic School is full of learning, fun, and many surprises.

Elementary

First Grade:

Second Grade: Hi! I am Margaret Cruse. My family and I moved here in 2000 from Corpus Christi where I taught at St. Patrick's Catholic School. I have a BA in Dance from the University of Texas at Austin and received my teaching certification from A&M – Corpus Christi. This is my tenth year of teaching 2nd grade at St. Rita Catholic School. Being at St. Rita has been a joy. I love the family atmosphere and the wonderful faculty and staff. I love teaching second grade and watching these seven and eight year olds blossom into wonderful readers.

Third Grade: My name is Kathy Cihak and I'm the third Grade teacher at St. Rita Catholic School. Having been in education over 30 years, I'm always happy to meet a new class with its joys and challenges. Since my favorite activity is reading, I especially enjoy teaching reading and having our daily story time. I like seeing the delighted faces when the students are able to use math manipulatives to learn math concepts. My four children attended and graduated from St. Rita School. Presently, 3 grandchildren are also attending SRS so this school is home. I try to have my students feel the same way.

Fourth Grade: Hello, my name is Sister Kathryn Evelo, better known as Sister Kay Jo. I am a Sister of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate from San Antonio, Texas.

Terre Haute, Indiana is my birthplace. We moved to Texas when I was two years old. I grew up and went to school in Houston. I attended college in San Antonio as a Sister. I received my BA and MA from Incarnate Word University in San Antonio. Later I received my certification for Principal-ship from Our Lady of the Lake University. I served as principal for 23 years.

My teaching career has been in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. This is my 13th year at St. Rita. I taught PE for the first 5 years and this is my 8th year in grade 4. My experience in teaching fourth grade is 18 years. My life after school has been as Athletic Director, coaching several sports and tutoring when necessary.

Life here at St. Rita has enriched my life. The parents and children are the best, it is my second home.

Fifth Grade: My name is Bridget Ronan and this is my second year at St. Rita School. I am a member of the Alliance for Catholic Education program, a service-teaching program which serves Catholic schools across the United States. I graduated in 2008 from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in English and I will graduate in 2010 with a M.A. in Education also from the University of Notre Dame. Originally, from southern California, I love reading, writing, and learning to cook new dishes for my community members who serve with me in the ACE program. I have greatly enjoyed the St. Rita family and am looking forward to the many adventures that our 5th grade class will share.

Junior High

English-language arts: My name is Mary Burns and I am a native of Fort Worth. I have begun my second year as a junior-high teacher at Saint Rita School. I am also the sixth grade home room and grade level math teacher. Teaching is a second career for me. My first career was in architecture, a field that provided me with many creative opportunities and the setting for meeting my husband of fourteen years. After twelve years in the business, I felt as though I had a new calling. After courses in education, I taught high school for five years before accepting the position at Saint Rita. In addition to the privilege of working with the superb faculty and staff at this school, I am also the very proud mother of two Saint Rita wildcats. My daughter and son have been students here since kindergarten and pre-k 4, respectively. I am blessed to be a part of this generous, creative, and faith-filled community. I am thrilled to share my love of the English language and a passion for reading and number sense with the students of Saint Rita Catholic School.

Religion and social studies: Hi! My name is Anita Strange and I am the 8th grade homeroom teacher. My teaching responsibilities are 6th, 7th, and 8th graders social studies and religion. Over the past 35 plus years my students have said that I am fair and that my classes are challenging, exciting, and fun. I try very hard to plan meaningful and interesting lessons that will meet the needs of all my students. I know that if you send your child to SRCS that their Jr. High years will be a wonderful adventure in knowing, loving and serving God, as well as, giving them a strong academic background in social studies and deep appreciation for history in their lives.

Science and math: Welcome! Bienvenidos! My name is Ms. Salazar and I am eager to learn with you in my first year here in the Saint Rita's community. I am from Lake Jackson, TX and received my bachelors from the University of Notre Dame. Currently, I am pursuing my Masters of Education through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. The ACE program serves inner-city Catholic schools throughout the southern United States and I am blessed to be placed back in my homeland, Texas. I studied science and medieval history and I am excited to share my love for both subjects with you.

Accelerated math: My name is Lisa Millis and my family and I have been members of St. Rita Parish and School Community for 15 years. I teach Accelerated Math 6, Advanced Math 7 (Pre-Algebra) and Algebra I. As a parent I want a learning environment for my four children where they are supported, and comfortable, yet also are challenged to reach their potential. As a teacher I strive to offer that same type of environment to my accelerated and advanced math classes here at Saint Rita Catholic School. We spend the first minute or so of each class with a Bible verse, reflection and prayers for our concerns. Students build computational skills while also focusing on understanding the concepts and making connections so they may think logically and be able to apply what they know to new situations. This will give them the excellent foundation they need for virtually all higher level mathematics.

Spanish: My name is Margaret Perera and I am beginning my 18th year as St. Rita School's Spanish teacher. I grew up in Chicago, and I received my B.A in Spanish from Rosary College (now Dominican University). I taught for 3 years at Resurrection High School. While doing post-grade studies at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City I met and married my husband. I lived in Mexico City for 11 years, and while I was there I taught English language in a small elementary school at the Seminario Menor, a high school for seminarians and other high school age boys. I have 2 sons, both St. Rita School graduates. My family and I lived in Harlingen, Texas before moving to Arlington in 1990. Nothing makes me happier than being able to share my love of the Spanish language and culture with children.

Music:

Physical Education: My name is Linda Reed and this is my second year at St. Rita. I have coached the volleyball, basketball and track teams during this time.

I graduated from Poly high School. I received a BS degree from Texas Wesleyan with a double major in Physical Education and History. Later, I received my MA from Texas Wesleyan with a major in Counseling. My husband and I live in Arlington with a neurotic dog and somewhat normal cats. I spend my spare time reading, working on our genealogy, and shopping.

I look forward to working with our student athletes in all our sport programs, as well as encouraging our future athletes in the lower grades to start planning to play on one of our sports teams.

Computer: My name is Tina Hampton. I have been serving St. Rita School for the past 12 years. I began as an Early Childhood aide, and then I was the school secretary. I went back to school, and am now the computer teacher and medical records coordinator. Both of my daughters have gone through St. Rita and have been very successful in high school and college. I believe I have one of the best positions, because I get to work with all of the children in the school from 3 year olds to 14 year olds. It is my goal to have all students ready for any high school they choose to attend.



Library:

Aide: My name is Sharen Mobley. I have been a teachers' assistant at St. Rita's for ten years. I work with Kindergarten, First and Second grade and am a lunch room coordinator. My children both attended St. Rita's from Kindergarten through Eighth grade. All through their years at St. Rita's I volunteered as a room parent, president of the Advisory Council, Home and School president, Las Vegas Night Chairman, Girl Scout leader and other numerous activities. After many years of volunteering, I found that working with the children at St. Rita was very rewarding and decided to join the wonderful staff.

Lunch: My name is Andrea Rojas. I have been working at St. Rita for five years as Lunch coordinator and as a Pre-K Aide. I am married to Eddy, my high school sweetheart, and we have two daughters that attend St. Rita – Alexandra is in the 6th grade and Ariana is in Kindergarten.

Development: My name is Adriana Rogers and my family and I have been a part of St. Rita parish for eight years and St. Rita School for six years. I am so

excited about development. My favorite part is capturing the children in photos during various events and projects. I can't wait to get a snapshot of your little one.