

Crusader News Network (CNN)

St. Anne has a special vibe for the Gonzalez Family

By Ray Brewer



The Gonzalez family first arrived at Saint Anne Catholic School in 2008. Along the way, there has been plenty of Fun Fair festivals, Christmas plays, athletic events, Friday mass and more. Most important, are the friendships and memories. Mom Flor Bernal-Gonzalez remembers that first year when Lucca, now a sophomore at Bishop Gorman, was in pre-K. They found St. Anne because it offered a full-day of preschool when other schools didn't.

They initially met Principal Dr. James Machinski and Mrs. McDonald in the front office. They saw longtime pre-kindergarten teacher Mrs. Harrington, and the impact she had on the students. They immediately knew this would be their long-term home.

“St. Anne just had that special vibe,” she said.

With daughter Gigi in the eighth grade, the family will soon stop making daily trips from Henderson for school. But, they will always be part of the community, especially when it comes to supporting it with activities. And their niece and nephew, Venezia and Viggo Martinez, are fourth-graders.

Nothing beats the Fun Fair, a festival held after weekend masses that draws a huge crowd and is the school's primary fundraiser. It was postponed

this October because of the pandemic.

“It's the collaboration between the parish and school,” Bernal-Gonzalez said. “It brings together the best of both communities. It's an opportunity for us to be together in the best interest of the school. It's great seeing all of the groups interacting with the students.”



The family has gone above and beyond in its dedication to the school. Bernal-Gonzalez is a longtime member of the school advisory board, has been a leader in Fun Fair planning committee, and has volunteered countless of hours to school programs and events. She encourages other families to also pitch in — after all, time, treasure and talent is needed in a school of less than 100 families.

“What's your purpose?” she said. “There's a power in being present for your children by taking an active role.”

Gigi has about five months left at St. Anne to conclude her 10-year journey. Not making the daily commute to St. Anne to see lifelong friends will take some getting used to — but the the Gonzalez family won't go far.

“So many friends, so many projects, a lifetime of memories,” Bernal-Gonzalez said. “There's a reason we drove there every day.”



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Principal's Corner



Mission statements are not simply a piece of compliance for schools. Mission statements are a driving force, direction, purpose. When is the last time you read Saint Anne Catholic School's mission?

The Saint Anne Catholic School Community, a ministry of Saint Anne Roman Catholic Church, is committed to the fundamental obligation to teach and live the Gospel message as well as preparing students to be productive, responsible and effective members of the world community. We prepare students for life-time service to God and the quest for knowledge.

The students, staff and families of Saint Anne Catholic School should be proud of their continued commitment to the fundamental obligation to teach and live the Gospel message. Last Spring, our community was tested when everyone had to adjust to a new reality. Over the Summer we reflected on and revised the process of teaching and learning during a pandemic in order to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. At the forefront of preparation was our mission. Through prayer we contemplated how we can teach and live the Gospel message as well as prepare students to be productive, responsible and effective members of the world community safely. The Lord provided. We were able to open the gates and classroom

doors and provide a safe learning environment for all members of our school community.

Safety continues to be a top priority. We cannot reiterate enough how essential it is for students, faculty and families to observe social distancing and mask wearing while on campus. Learning is able to occur in person due to these safety measures, among many others.

The faculty at Saint Anne deserves recognition for serving families in two learning platforms, online and in-person. Their daily lessons prepare students for a life-time service to God and the quest for knowledge.

Saint Anne looks to the future as the second trimester has begun. Saint Anne, driven by its Mission, prepares to reboot the Accelerated Reading program along with other software programs. Students in grades PK-1 will take the Early Literacy diagnostic test and students in 2nd-8th will take the STAR Reading and Math diagnostic tests. These tests are taken 3 times throughout the school year. The objective is growth! The Renaissance programs provide teachers with multiple data points which help drive instruction.

Along with the Renaissance programs, students will be using Freckle, Tynker, BrainPOP and IXL. All of these software programs are not meant to replace our current curriculum; they are to enhance it. Each teacher will use these programs differently as they know what is best for their students. We are blessed this year to be able to have such a plethora of supplemental programs. Typically, we would not be able to afford it but this year the CARES/ESSER Act has provided the funds.

We have already seen higher engagement and achievement from students while using these programs. PTO's fundraising efforts for 20-21 are focused on procuring the funds needed to keep beneficial supplemental software programs for the 21-22 school year. Please consider joining Saint Anne Catholic School PTO meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 5pm. You can also help support the school by participating in the Scrip Program. You can find more information on the program on our school website.



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Inquiring Within the Saint Anne Staff

Inquiring minds want to know:

1. What brought to Saint Anne?
2. Have you taught anywhere else?
3. How would you like to be remembered at Saint Anne?
4. What's a fun fact about you?
5. Can you provide us with a class update?



Mrs. Sandra Dadgar, Pre-Kindergarten

1. To be surrounded by an environment where I am able to practice my Catholic faith throughout the day.
2. The following are some of the states I have taught in: Texas, Virginia, South Carolina, and Nevada! The last district I was a part of was The Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA). I worked as a Pre-Kindergarten Teacher in Germany for DoDEA.
3. I hope to be remembered at St. Anne as a compassionate, thoughtful, and extraordinary teacher.
4. I have lived across the world. My favorite place to live was in Turkey!
5. Pre-K certainly has a lot to celebrate. We are happy to report that we know our schedule, have become independent, and we know our rules/procedures. We are beginning to learn our letters and their sounds. We have learned to identify parts of a book and now learning to identify and state what an author and illustrator does. We are learning to state the main idea of a book and answer questions regarding the book. Students are also learning to identify and state characters in the story.



Miss Laura Brown, Kindergarten

1. A calling to be an educator and an answer to a prayer.
2. First year teacher.
3. As the teacher that you never want to forget; the one that instilled a love for learning!
4. When I travel I like look at old buildings or churches and admire the architecture.
5. Kindergarten has been learning their letters and letter sounds with the help of our Superkid friends! We started blending sounds and read our first Superkids story with words this week. In Science we grew a lima bean and learned about the life cycle of a plant and it's different parts. We have been learning about our responsibility to take care of God's creation, like plants and animals; but most importantly being kind to one another.



Mrs. Jessica Lawson, 1st Grade

1. Moved to Las Vegas in 2019 and was recommended for the job
2. I taught 1st grade for 5 years at St. Stephen Martyr School in Monterey Park, CA
3. As an educator who is fun, kind, and compassionate and helps students learn and be closer to God



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4. I used to play clarinet in a swing band that got paid to play at weddings
5. First Grade has been hard at work reading about the Superkids characters and becoming better readers and writers. We have been learning about the workers and helpers around us in our community. We are also sharing and telling all the ways that God made us special and learning more about the unique gifts he gave each of us.



Mrs. Yvette Andes, 2nd Grade

1. My husband was in the military and we were stationed here in Las Vegas. I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to teach in a school that embraces our Catholic faith with our educational experience.
2. Within the diocese, I was at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for 4 years.
3. I am incredibly blessed to be a Sacraments teacher. I hope that my students remember their faith journey and what they learned as they prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.
4. I lived in England for 14 years.
5. We have been learning about the significance of ALL SAINTS DAY as a holy day and its importance in our Catholic faith. 2nd graders have spent time studying about our community of believers and our larger Catholic family. Our studies have included the meaning of Dia de los Muertos, Hallow's Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day. We are praying for our loved ones that have died and have embraced how we can learn from the Saints and the faith models that they are to us. This has been such a blessed experience for our class as we grew so much in our spiritual learning and this included time spent making our Saint wooden dolls.



Saint Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe



Mrs. Pamela Charles, 3rd Grade

1. My love for Catholic education. Before I was the 3rd Grade Teacher, I was a Middle School Math teacher here.
2. I have taught at St. Viator and at CCSD schools.
3. As a teacher who cares and always wants the best for her students.
4. I lived in Paris, France with my family for 5 years.
5. Greetings from our 'masked-socially-distanced' 3rd grade classroom, where we are having fun learning together. We are finishing up subtraction, and excited to begin multiplication. We are busy with our AR program, happy to be praying the rosary every day with our school.



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Mrs. Lori Hevrin, 4th Grade

1. Wonderful Family Atmosphere
2. St. Viator, St. Bernadette, Illinois
3. As a teacher who really cares about her students and their families.
4. I am in love with Winnie the Pooh!
5. Fourth Grade is off to a wonderful start! We are so happy to welcome seven new 4th grade students to our St. Anne Family! The students have all settled into our daily routine smoothly. We just finished a review of Reconciliation, God's gift of forgiveness. We are busy learning our multiplication tables and all about cells. The students have been enjoying their time on the playground, and we have even learned about the famous artist: Vincent Van Gogh. We are looking forward to beginning the Jane Schaffer writing program and perfecting our writing skills. We plan to enjoy this beautiful Fall weather together!



**Mrs. Alexis Bryant, 5th Grade -
Homeroom/Middle School: Math**

1. I was brought to St. Anne to spread my

love for learning and my love for God.

2. No.
3. As a kind-hearted teacher who makes learning math and all subjects fun for all.
4. I love to read and kayak on the weekend.
5. 5th grade is having a fantastic first trimester! As a class we are enjoying being a part of middle school. The students have learned about staying organized and having multiple teachers. We are looking at where the states are located, decimals and we are starting the novel Holes. 5th grade is enjoying the school year and looking forward to the second trimester.



**Mr. Johnny Smyth, 6th Grade - Middle School:
Science & Technology**

1. I love the environment and the community.
2. St. Viator, Somerset
3. As a teacher the children look back on and think "He's the reason that I love science."
4. I am a gamer and stream on Twitch.tv
5. 6th Grade has had quite the start for both Science and Technology. We've been able to successfully integrate technology throughout the school and work it into every subject! This Trimester we're going to be working our way into Earth and the Solar System in Science, which is a favorite for kids. In Technology, we're going to be opening up computers and learning everything about what makes them work!



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**Miss Malika Markham, 7th Grade –
Homeroom/Middle School: Literature & Social
Studies**

1. The close community & family St. Anne has to offer
2. No, this is my first year teaching!
3. As a person who challenges the students academically & for being a role model
4. I played college soccer for 2 universities: The University of Oregon & UNLV
5. 7th grade is having a wonderful time because we just welcomed a new permanent resident—our class pet! His name is Levi and he is a guinea pig! 7th grade loved him right away and they are very responsible for the new addition. Currently, we are reading the novel *The Giver*. The students created brochures of their own utopia. It is safe to say, I have some very creative students! Also, we are finishing a lesson on ancient African Empires! The students are enjoying learning about different cultures, governments, and economies.



**Mrs. Adrian Taylor-Allen, 8th Grade -
Homeroom/Middle School: Grammar, Writing &
Religion**

1. Public & Private School in California. Public School in Nevada
2. As someone who made learning fun and exciting despite the odds
3. I love country music and the Blues
4. So far, the 8th grade class is learning how to be leaders and lead the correct way. Although the school year has just begun, we have been discussing High School! The students are also anticipating the arrival of their 8th grade jackets!



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Coach Hughes, PE, Health and Athletic Director

1. I have been at SACS since 1999
2. Being around fantastic kids
3. Wearing shorts to work and seeing success from former students makes my job the absolute best!



Sheila Solomon, Librarian

1. The opportunity to work in the library, a job I have always wanted.
2. Our Lady of Las Vegas
3. As someone who opened up a world of exciting adventures, new people, and different worlds.
4. My husband and I share the exact same birthday. He's a few hours older.



Mrs. Susan McDonald, Office Administrator

1. Father Dave Casaleggio
2. Children's Choir at Our Lady of Las Vegas
3. I would like to be remembered as someone who treated everyone like family 😊
4. I opened the show for Tony Bennett, New Years Eve -2000 at the Desert Inn

An advertisement for business advertising. It features a painter in a blue uniform on a ladder, painting a large sign that says "ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE" in bold black and red letters. Below the sign is a box with the text "Contact Mrs. Carpenter for details." The background shows a white wall and some construction materials.



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individual ticket seller (private movie screening for 20 of their closest friends and family) and our top selling class prize (movie/popcorn party & teacher gets afternoon off). We also have the Hype Socks fundraiser happening now, where you can purchase St. Anne logo'd socks that can be worn to show your school pride as well as during PE days at school. They would make great Christmas gifts for your student. The deadline for the socks orders is November 24th to receive them in time for Christmas.

Because of the pandemic, we are very limited in what we can plan as far as events for the school. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to doing those things soon. Until then, we always welcome new ideas and encourage you all to participate. Let's make the best of this school year together.

See you at the next meeting!!

PTO Cabinet Members:

- Mrs. Abigale Carpenter - Principal
- Mrs. Annielean Young - President
- Mrs. Jaclyn Bermudez - Treasurer
- Mrs. Sheina Ruvalcaba – Secretary

PTO Message

The St. Anne PTO would like to thank the parents and staff members who have participated in our meetings the past two months. Our primary goal is to bring the parents and faculty together to make the school experience one that we will all cherish forever and this year is no exception. We encourage you all to get involved as we discuss creative ideas amidst our current environment. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 5pm via Zoom.

So what has the PTO done so far?

For starters, we did a staff appreciation gift and gave each member of our dedicated staff a Halloween bucket full of goodies. We also had the Veteran's Day fundraiser where we were able to see all of the veterans that our St. Anne Catholic School families honored on Facebook. There were also a couple of contests that we sponsored, the Halloween costume contest and the car magnet contest, where students were able to participate and win prizes!! Congratulations to all of the costume contest winners and our magnet contest winner, Amanda Baer (4th grade), whose design will soon be displayed on many of our families' vehicles.

What does the PTO have going on right now?

Our Thanksgiving raffle is going on until November 20th and the PTO is sponsoring the prizes for our top



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