

Teacher in the Spotlight



Dr. Judy Dickinson – Resource, Guidance, and Art 4-8

Judy Dickinson began at STCBS as a part-time art teacher in 1991. She attended Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee where she received a degree in fine art, and did freelance illustration until moving to Florida. Her children were young, and St. Charles was a perfect fit.

The Diocese later offered Dr. Dickinson the opportunity of participating in a new resource program which included a Master's of Science degree in Exceptional Student Education from Barry University. She was eager to jump at the chance. It has since been her good fortune to have worked with amazing professionals in the area, including Dr. Eric Treadis, at All Children's in Tampa, Dr. Mel Levine, and Dr. Elmer Kadison. She was also able to spend a summer at the University of North Carolina Research Triangle doing state-of-the-art assessments for children who are gifted and those who have alternative learning styles. She has worked for five of our Diocesan schools. In January of 2008, she was awarded a Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology, where she continues to practice as a mental health intern.

Dr. Judy's approach to fine art at the elementary/middle school level is about providing new and positive experiences for all students – not just those with emerging talent. She believes our students need a chance to exercise the other half of their brain during their school day, so we will all enjoy ourselves! As a mental health professional, her fine art background enriches and strengthens her counseling classes. As the school counselor, she will explore topics related to bullying, and the three components necessary for the bullying environment to manifest, relational respect, personal learning and career possibilities, and all things related to Catholic identity and service. If she provides support to a student through the resource program, she is in close contact with parents from the beginning of the school year.

She believes working with the children is the biggest blessing in her life!