

Ms. Tonya Peters, M.S.

Principal

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Management

Master's Degree in Educational Leadership

Professional Certification in Middle School Integrated Curriculum grades 5 – 9, and Educational Leadership Grades K - 12

Ms. Peters was born and raised in Connecticut before moving to Florida. She attended Bryant University and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a Marketing and Management concentration. After graduation, Ms. Peters jumped into the retail business as a store manager of a large retail store. She realized that she missed being around children and decided to blend her business background with her love for children by purchasing and operating her Early Childhood/ Day Care Center. This center cared for children ages six weeks to thirteen years old, along with hosting both three and four-year-old prekindergarten programs.

In 2005 Ms. Peters sold her business and moved to Florida. Her love to educate children did not end when she moved. She began work at a local public school as a Reading Coach. It did not take even a year when the principal approached her and said I want you to be a classroom teacher. Ms. Peters took on the challenge and studied at the Community College of Florida to receive all of the educational courses necessary to be a teacher. But then she got "the call" from a Catholic school principal to come in for an interview. She knew she was home as soon as she walked in the door.

Ms. Peters took the job as a 5th-Grade teacher and was employed for eight years in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Not only did she serve as a teacher, but also a middle school volleyball coach, athletic director, Home and School Liaison, and bookkeeper at Pope John Paul Catholic School in Lecanto, Florida.

Ms. Peters furthered her education by receiving a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership from Barry University. Upon graduation, she was privileged to participate in a two-year administration training model titled, "One Principal, Two Assistant Principals, Two Schools." Ms. Peters was the assistant principal for Pope John Paul for one year and then assistant principal for both Pope John Paul and Notre Dame schools the next year.

After the training model ended, she served as the assistant principal for academics for two years at St. Petersburg Catholic High School in St. Petersburg.

Ms. Peters began her principalship at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in 2014. Her latest accomplishment is transforming the school curriculum to reflect a STREAM interdisciplinary program, including science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and math. Ms. Peters is a certified clinical educator guiding new teachers in the field of education. Ms. Peters feels

that learning goes beyond just learning content as it incorporates critical thinking and problem solving to keep up with our changing world around us.

Ms. Peters just retired from the Board for the Florida ASCD. This organization concentrates on professional development for all educators. She also had the honor of being invited by the United States Department of Education and ASCD and four other colleagues to work with them on a professional development program. This program will take a couple of years to create and implement.

Ms. Peters has three daughters, a son, daughter-in-law, and a son-in-law. Her pride and joy are her two granddaughters, three grandsons, and two dogs! She feels blessed that one of her granddaughters can attend St. Charles.

"Be the change you want to see in the world," was a quote from Gandhi and is Ms. Peters' life goal. Believing that everyone can make a positive difference even if it is one small step at a time. Ms. Peters is genuinely committed to Catholic Education as she believes that each child is a special gift from God and should be nurtured academically, socially, and spiritually. She is enjoying being a part of both the St. Charles Borromeo School and Church communities.