

WHY NOT

DRAW CLOSER

TO JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST?

Learn from the Catechism

#1406-1419

Get to know St. John Paul II's Mind

EE Ch. 6 At the School of Mary, "Woman of the Eucharist"

Give Praise to God

through the "Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist" hymn

Reclaim Sunday for God & the Family

Attend Mass at your partner parish

Watch an uplifting movie

Romero

Contemplate Sacred Art

The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci



Immaculate Conception School – Jackson, MO

2025-2026

4th Quarter Honor Rolls

4th Grade

A Honor Roll

Autumn Brunke, Abbi Davis, Noah Collier, Ava Featherston, Carter Guilfooy, Lewis Huff, Reagan Jansen, Whitman Lumsden, Stella Martin, Maci McCall, Myli McCall, Greyson Rueseler, Lucy Ruch, Lorenzo Ruggieri, Xavier Thomas

B Honor Roll

Catherine McNeely, Benedict Starke

5th Grade

A Honor Roll

Finley Essner, Kinsley Hindman, Audrey Miller, Gabe Thornberry

B Honor Roll

Khloe Clark, Greyson DuBois, Andrew Guilfooy, Lucia Kester, Paul Lentz, Abigail Litzelfelner, Jaxon Wofford

6th Grade

A Honor Roll

Remi Bruenderman, Audra Brunke, Dylan Clark, Adam DuBois, Jr., Susan Eftink, Madelyn Meier, Logan Moore, Caroline Rosenquist, Milo Tornetto

B Honor Roll

Tucker Barlow, Dirk Barnes, Nolan Henderson, Levi Holmes, Natalee Smith

7th Grade

A Honor Roll

Kara Chiles, Sawyer Coy, Mia McCall

B Honor Roll

Benson Clark, Paxton Essner, Dean Miller, Mia Niedbalski, Peter Starke

8th Grade

A Honor Roll

Kyleigh Duby, Mina Gosche, Anna Lewis, Jackson Peek, Ryan Rosenquist, Aubrey Wareing

B Honor Roll

Sophia Barlow, Damian Huff, Winston Lumsden, Rebecca Niedbalski, Sophie Parker, Lincoln Peek, Joseph Ruch

A SHARED CALLING



After 16 years of shared ministry, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Catholic education, Michele Campbell and Lynn Dennis are stepping into retirement together, just as they began: side by side.

Their journey at Immaculate Conception School (ICS) has been marked not only by professional dedication, but by a deep sense of vocation, community, and faith formation. Reflecting on their time, both women speak with gratitude, humility, and a profound love for the students and families they have served.

Coming Home and Beginning Together

For Michele Campbell, serving as principal at ICS felt less like a new job and more like a return to her roots. "I was very excited to be the administrator," she recalls. "This was the school I attended, and my kids attended. Immaculate Conception has always been my home, so I felt like I was coming home." For Lynn Dennis, the beginning looked different but quickly became just as meaningful. Having met Michele during her previous role as principal at Guardian Angel, Lynn found comfort in a familiar face when she joined ICS. "It was nice to know someone," she says. "And I didn't even know if I'd be able to get a job teaching religion. So the fact that Michele and Father John believed it was important to have a dedicated religion teacher, that was huge." That shared commitment would shape the school in profound ways.

Building a Culture of Faith

Early in their tenure, Michele and Father John recognized an opportunity to strengthen the school's Catholic identity. "Religion classes were only a few times a week," Michele explains. "But we believed that as a Catholic school, this needed to be our focus, so we moved to religion every day." From that decision grew a collaborative partnership between administration and classroom leadership. "We always had a shared goal," Michele says. "To strengthen the Catholic faith in our school and help it reach the children and their families." Lynn agrees, emphasizing the power of alignment: "We built a culture centered on faith," she says. "And over 16 years, you could really see that culture grow."

The Joy of Watching Faith Take Root

When asked about their greatest joys, both educators immediately point to the students. "Seeing them receive the sacraments and grow in their faith has been such a joy," Michele shares. "And watching them grow from little children to young adults, then seeing them come back, that's really special." For Lynn, the moments that stand out most are often the smallest. "It's those 'aha' moments," she says. "When something clicks and you know it's taken root." She recalls one such moment vividly: "A three-year-old once took me by the hand, walked me to the crucifix, and said, 'That's Jesus.' That kind of thing, you never forget it." Those early seeds of understanding are what both women believe endure long after students leave the classroom.

Lynn Dennis
ICS 6th - 8th Religion
2010-2026
28 Years in Education



Michele Campbell
ICS Principal
2010-2026
39 Years in Education



Traditions, Memories, and Unexpected Impact

Some of the most lasting memories at ICS weren't part of a formal curriculum. For Michele, one cherished tradition was a yearly eighth-grade game called "Ghost." "It became our thing," she says with a smile. "They kept it a secret from the younger students. It wasn't faith-based, but it built community and camaraderie through strategy, spelling, and vocabulary." Lynn notes that often the most meaningful impact is unplanned. "Students come back years later and tell you something you said that you don't even remember," she says. "But it mattered to them. That tells you everything." One particularly powerful example of that community spirit came through a faculty-led service project. When a school family faced a serious health crisis, the staff and students rallied together, raising funds to purchase and decorate a Christmas tree for the family, creating handmade blankets, and finishing the evening signing Christmas carols for the family. "When they saw it, they were in tears," Michele recalls. "It was such a moving experience, not just for them, but for our whole school community."

The Critical Middle Years

For Lynn, teaching students in grades six through eight carried a particular sense of urgency. "That's the age where you can lose them," she explains. "So if you can give them something, a phrase, a message, that stays with them, then there's hope they'll come back to it later." Over time, her perspective evolved, especially when students chose different high school paths. "I used to be concerned when strong students left for public school," she admits. "But then I realized that they become disciples there. They take what they've learned and share it in a new place." In that way, ICS becomes not just a destination, but a sending point.

Challenges and Blessings of Leadership

As principal, Michele faced the ongoing challenge familiar to many Catholic school leaders: balancing mission and sustainability. "Keeping the school financially stable while staying affordable for families. That's always the hardest part," she says. Yet, when asked about the greatest blessing, her answer is immediate: "The kids. I love these kids. I'll miss them more than anything." It's a sentiment Lynn shares, noting that the relationships built over time become lasting memories, for both students and educators alike.

What They Hope Endures

Looking ahead, both women offer reflections not on their own legacy, but on what they hope remains in the hearts of those they served. "I hope they realize it was worth their time," Lynn says. "Even if they didn't think so while they were here, that someday it all comes together." Michele adds: "I hope they remember that we truly cared. That they were valued and supported. And that our commitment to Catholic education was strong." Their hope is not perfection, but persistence.

A Final Blessing

As they enter retirement, their words to the ICS community are simple, sincere, and rooted in faith: "Thank you for the trust, the partnership, and the memories," Michele says. "May God's peace and blessings remain with all of you." Lynn echoes that sentiment while offering a heartfelt prayer: "I hope families stay strong in their Catholic faith. And if they drift away, I hope they come back." That longing, for return, for renewal, for enduring faith, captures the essence of their 16 years of service.

A Legacy of Presence

In the end, Michele and Lynn's legacy is not measured in programs or policies, but in presence: showing up, day after day, to teach, to lead, to guide, and to care. And in the quiet words of a child pointing to a crucifix, "That's Jesus", their work continues.



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Directory Committee

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