

## **NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER ANNOUNCEMENT**

St. Thomas More is excited to welcome Caitlyn Fargione as our new math teacher for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She will begin on February 13<sup>th</sup> to transition with Mrs. Hill, and then will take over the classroom after the President's Day break while Mrs. Hill departs for the delivery of her second baby!

Ms. Fargione is a product of Catholic education from her hometown of Millbrook, New York, and attended the State University of New York at Binghamton where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematical Sciences and a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis on Mathematics. She was the recipient of Binghamton's David L. Kushner Scholarship for demonstrated leadership potential, the Dolores A. Granito Scholarship that encourages women to enter mathematics education, and an Empire State Diversity Honors scholarship for achievement. She served the Binghamton University through her membership in Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Society, and the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society. During her studies she tutored for a city school district program called America Counts as well as a similar service through the university called Gear Up. Ms. Fargione joined a school-sponsored trip to Nicaragua to study education and literacy and perform humanitarian and educational activities. She has just completed her student teaching practicum in the Binghamton City schools under the guidance of the current President of the Math Association of New York State who stated in her reference call that "Caitlyn was the best student teacher I have ever seen, and I have seen many. You are so lucky to have her." Ms. Fargione wants to begin her teaching career in the sunnier south in a Catholic school because she "was able to flourish because of the support I received from my wonderful teachers and I aim to pass that gift on to my students." The interview team was impressed with her description of how God's creation can be appreciated through math and that "by learning math, students become closer to God through their wonder of His creation." In her spare time Caitlyn is an avid reader and still wishes she could have double majored in English, but Math won over her passions. She plays flute, a little bit of piano, and has volunteered in her home parish as a Vacation Bible School counselor. Ms. Fargione attended a basketball game while in town and is a HUGE fan of many sports, even playing in her school's pep band.

St. Thomas More Catholic School was blessed to have an unusual number of highly qualified candidates, and Caitlyn was put through "the gauntlet." After a phone interview before the Christmas break, she travelled here for a live interview with an eight member committee and was asked to do a full period demonstration lesson with our students with less than a 24 hour notice. Many thanks to the interview committee who put in many hours screening a stack of applications, scripting and executing interviews, and reviewing results and rankings. The end result speaks to their sincere efforts, and our collective passion for the quality of our school staff.

In Christ,  
- Mike

Michael W. Ashton, Ed. D.  
Principal, St. Thomas More Catholic School