



“My goal is to not only motivate the students to excel in science but to give them the tools to become better students and to prepare them for their next step in their spiritual, intellectual, and social lives.”

Kathy McGarvey

5th - 8th Grade Science / 6th Grade Homeroom

Mrs. McGarvey came to St. Thomas in 2013 and is the 6th grade HR teacher as well as the 5th-8th grades science teacher. She has over 13 years of teaching experience in both public and Catholic schools at the high school and junior high level. She earned her BS in Biology and Education from Loyola University. Mrs. McGarvey facilitates the 6th & 7th grade STV Science Fair (including preparation for the IJAS regional and state competitions), coordinates the STV Giving Garden, and leads the Nature Ninjas Environmental Club. Not only is she a teacher here at St. Thomas, she is also a parent of four STV graduates.

About the Students

“My goal is not only to motivate the students to excel in science but to give them the tools to become better students and to prepare them for their next step in their spiritual, intellectual and social lives. With our new **Smithsonian Science Curriculum**, our students are excited to work in hands-on inquiry-based lab situations, work cooperatively in groups to reach common goals, decipher science texts using informational text strategies and use current technology (iPads, Chromebooks, Vernier Probes) to aid in scientific understanding.”

On St. Thomas of Villanova

“My husband and I have been parishioners at St Thomas for the past 20 years. Deciding to enroll our oldest daughter in STV preschool 18 years ago was one of the best decisions we ever made. It is a place where students not only excel academically but also feel a sense of community and family. I feel privileged to be a part of the hard working and truly dedicated staff at St Thomas of Villanova.”

Grade Level Curriculum Highlights

*All Grade levels use
NEW SMITHSONIAN SCIENCE CURRICULUM*

5th Grade: Lab Academy

- General science with emphasis on scientific processes and skills.
- Special projects include Invention Convention, bridge building

6th Grade: Earth & Space Science

- Earth’s place in the universe and Earth systems
- Special projects include STEM rocket build and launch, volcano eruption model, embryology (duck egg hatching), Science Fair

7th Grade: Life Science

- Cells, Genetics, Classification
- Projects include cells and microscope work, DNA models, frog dissection, Science Fair

8th Grade: Physical Science

- Special projects include Northrop Grumman Engineering Discovery, Mousetrap Cars, Science Occupations
- Bridge build competition in STEM class

Field Trips

- Lorado Taft Trip and Science Field Trip (varies)
- Play at St. Viator

Projects Related to Our Faith

- Weekly Mass, Planning Liturgy and music for Mass
- Old Testament to New Testament to Today: God’s covenant with us is fulfilled in our relationship with Jesus Christ
- Monthly Service projects: Halloween Fun Fair, Project Linus blankets, STV Food Drive, making food for PADS, STV Giving Garden for Parish food pantry & Two Can Tuesday