



Faculty Focus

MRS. LAUREN LESTER

St. Pius X alumni? No

Years teaching/Years teaching at St. Pius X: 16 years in Catholic education, 1 year at St. Pius X

Department: Science

Degree(s)/Degree-granting institution: BS Physics, BS Math, University of Missouri; MS Physics, UMSL; MA Catholic School Administration, SLU

Academic area: Physics, Physical Science, Astronomy

When did you decide to become a teacher, and why did you choose this field? I loved physics in high school and planned to pursue a career in astronomy. While I was working on my physics degree at Mizzou, I realized that a research career wasn't what I wanted but I really enjoyed working with K-12 students at our department's outreach days.

What do you like most about teaching as a career? I enjoy getting to know my students and their interests. I love seeing "ah-ha" moments when a new idea clicks for a student and they feel a sense of success.

What is your philosophy of education? Students learn best by talking through their thought process so I try to establish a classroom environment where students work together to build their knowledge. I want students to learn how to think through new situations effectively; that is a skill they will use throughout their lives. It is also important to me to help students learn to effectively navigate the perceived dichotomy between faith and science. These are often seen as conflicting viewpoints, but in reality are simply two different ways to appreciate the beauty and order in God's creation. I want students to understand that they don't have to choose between faith and science but can reconcile the two.

Outside of work, what are you passionate about? I love gardening, reading, and hanging out where there is live music! I enjoy fun activities with my kids like swimming, watching movies, and time outdoors. Our parish and grade school community is also an important part of our family life; I'm involved in several committees and events that support our faith community.

What did you want to be when you were growing up? I wanted to be an archaeologist and an astronaut.