

Miss Katie Gibboney came to St. Peter in Chains School straight out of college, and is now entering her seventh year of teaching. Currently, Miss Gibboney is the fifth-grade homeroom teacher and teaches fifth and sixth-grade math and language arts. With the encouragement and support of her mentor teacher, as well as fellow teachers and staff, she has blossomed into an excellent, student-centered educator, who is very deserving of this award. One parent remarked, “I think Miss Gibboney is a fantastic choice for this award! It’s been a pleasure having her as a teacher for our kids! Aside from being caring, kind, and more than helpful with concerns or questions from my husband and I, or our children, Miss Gibboney is an excellent team player! We have loved the partnership she has with other teachers to serve our children. The staff works so well together and it has been such a great year for our kids. I’d also like to point out her summer tutoring lessons. This year, we took advantage of her offering and had one of our children attend tutoring over the summer for language arts. She was so helpful and considerate and spent much time with our child reviewing, refreshing, and beefing up LA skills for the next school year and the upcoming High School Placement Test. We certainly appreciated it and so did our child!”

Miss Gibboney works to build positive relationships both with and among students. Using flexible seating to create a comfortable, welcoming classroom, her students thrive in a safe, peaceful, and calm environment. Students enjoy her very creative, engaging lessons. She tries to make math fun by connecting the subject to real world situations. For example, one math project teaches decimal operations by connecting it to Christmas shopping! Students peruse a Target Christmas catalog, brainstorming ways to stay within budget as they “buy” Christmas presents for a charity. Other teaching strategies include task cards, math problems posted around the room, and stations activities. She differentiates instruction, invites other teachers into the

classroom to create and teach leveled groups, and utilizes technology such as Chromebooks, Google classroom, Readworks, and online games. She also creates fun classroom games to review material, such as cornhole, bowling, and her own game of “basketball head”! Students create vocabulary skits and play Pictionary, write in journals, and use picture prompts (fun ones like “teacup pigs”). Miss Gibboney also brings her vibrant Catholic faith into the classroom, using daily Christian meditations and teaching students how to treat one another, while intentionally relating it back to our Catholic faith.

Miss Gibboney puts a lot of thought into lesson planning. For the novel, *Wonder*, she organized a field trip to see the movie when it first came out in theaters. Rather than simply reading a novel, she believes that reading novels should be an experience. When students read the book *Holes*, it included a celebration, with themed food. When she teaches *A Long Walk to Water*, which is about the water shortage in Africa, students engage in a relay race with buckets so that they experience the challenge which the children in Africa have of actually having to carry their water in buckets for survival. When students struggle, or need additional help, Miss Gibboney is always willing to assist. She offers tutoring during recess and after school and offers tutoring services at a local library over the summer.

Within the school community, Miss Gibboney exemplifies leadership in a variety of ways. She seeks to empower and instill leadership skills in students by overseeing Student Council with another teacher after school. She also facilitates the Magnified Giving program in which she guides students in researching and choosing a charity to receive a grant. She serves her fellow faculty members in a variety of ways. As Teacher Leader for Option C, our student data management software, she helps to train new teachers in the use of the software, attends webinars to learn about new tools and resources, and communicates information to her fellow

teachers. She also helps to spread the good news about all the wonderful things happening at St. Peter's. Teachers send pictures and updates about STEM experiments, field trips, and other good news for Miss Gibboney to share on our school Facebook page. Miss Gibboney also serves on our Education Commission and has been very instrumental in creating our school strategic plan.

One coworker (and parent) stated, "Katie has such a fun, sweet, spirited personality. She is super easy to work with and never hesitates to jump in and help where needed. I am blessed to have her as a colleague & friend, and twice blessed to have her teach 2 of my children. They say that 'Miss Gibbs is kind and always there to help when you need her. She makes activities fun. You don't even realize that you are learning, but you walk out of school each day knowing something new...' ". Miss Gibboney is an excellent educator and we feel very blessed to have her as part of our faculty at St. Peter in Chains School!