



De LaSalle News



“A Beacon of Hope
for students with learning challenges.”

Fall 2016

Principal’s Corner



Mrs. Riti
Principal

Each new school year brings a fresh sense of excitement, and the start of 2016-2017 is no exception. It is hard to believe we are embarking on our 5th year, a milestone for any growing organization. This August, De LaSalle opened with 141 students, 19 teachers, 4 therapists, and 14 support staff to continue our mission to educate students with special needs by providing a safe, supportive and nurturing environment where each student’s diverse ability is honored and valued. De LaSalle Academy’s staff and Board of Directors are committed to delivering the best private school education programming in Southwest Florida. Plans for this year are packed with opportunities for every student to grow and develop into responsible and accomplished adults who have the confidence and the skills to succeed in life. We look forward to sharing the stories of our journey this year! If you haven’t had an opportunity as of yet to visit our campus and meet our amazing students, please give us a call to arrange a tour.

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De LaSalle Welcomes New Board Members

De LaSalle Academy welcomes new Board Members, Becky Antonucci, Rachelle Isaacson and Jerry Snyderman. Mrs. Antonucci is a licensed occupational therapist with a specialty in pediatrics and early intervention. Her volunteer activities include Habitat for Humanity, Golisano Children’s Hospital, St. John XXIII Catholic Church, Junior League of Fort Myers, and Lakes Park Enrichment Children’s Garden.



Rachelle Isaacson (left), Jerry Snyderman, Becky Antonucci

Mrs. Isaacson has been involved with various community organizations as well as her children’s schools in Fort Myers for 20 years. Mrs. Isaacson is a passionate advocate for children with special needs and De LaSalle Academy. Her daughter, Sydney, is a 2016 graduate of De LaSalle.

Mr. Snyderman was a longtime local businessman as the president of Snyderman Shoes and former owner of the restaurants Sasse’s, and the Captiva Inn. He sits on the Boards of Special Equestrians and the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.



De LaSalle Introduces a Course in American Sign Language

De LaSalle has introduced coursework in American Sign Language (ASL). Many people incorrectly think that learning disabilities are correlated to IQ levels. In fact, students with learning disabilities have post high school goals similar to those students without learning disabilities. They also have the capability of achieving these

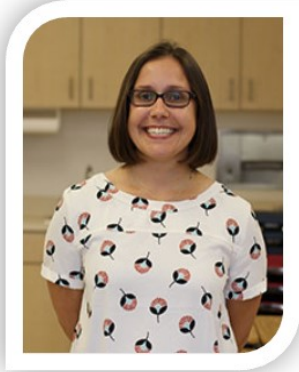


goals. By incorporating a foreign language component that De LaSalle students are able to master, the school is opening up more doors for students after high school graduation.

ASL is the perfect foreign language choice for De LaSalle students. It is a language option that is acceptable to many colleges and universities as a foreign language requirement. ASL can be taught and learned visually which is tremendously helpful to students who struggle with reading and language arts. Rhonda Murphy, who spent last year as a long-term substitute will instruct classes each day for high-school students.



De LaSalle Welcomes Assistant Principal Sarah Barrow



As the 2016 – 2017 school year begins, De LaSalle Academy welcomes Sarah Barrow as our new Assistant Principal. Mrs. Barrow commented, “I am so honored to be joining the staff at De LaSalle Academy. In the short time that I have been here, I have had the opportunity to experience first-hand the welcoming culture where all individuals are valued for their unique strengths. As an Assistant Principal my main role is to provide support to the students, teachers, and staff. I am so excited to be part of this amazing school and be part of its continued growth.”

As a highly experienced educator specializing in special education, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education and a Master of Education, Autism Studies from Georgian Court University. She is certified as an Assistive Technology Specialist, Teacher of Elementary School, and Wilson Reading System Level 1 Specialist. She has worked as a Special Education Department Leader, and in the classroom in a variety of capacities including , Assistive Technology Specialist, Middle School Language and Learning Disabled Teacher and Middle School and High School Multiply Disabled Teacher. She is also rated Highly Qualified in Middle School Language Arts. We are honored to have Mrs. Barrow join our staff and look forward to an exciting year with her.

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Upcoming Events

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De LaSalle Academy
6401 Techster Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33966
(239) 245-8212
(239) 245-7951
www.delasallefm.org