

## *SKD Knights of Columbus Teacher of the Year Award* *SJRCS is PROUD of Joan D'Loughy!*

Joan D'Loughy's tenure at St. John Regional Catholic School began in 1982. A handwritten note dated April 19, 1982, expressed her interest in a teaching position to Sr. Ambrosia who was the principal at that time. Following this letter of interest, her application, and an interview which clearly illustrated her skills as an educator, Joan D'Loughy was hired in the fall of 1982 as a fifth grade teacher.



Mrs. D'Loughy holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Rowan University along with a certification in Special Education.

Prior to joining SJRCS, Mrs. D'Loughy was a teacher at the Berlin Community School in Berlin, New Jersey from, 1974-1982. There, she served as a Teacher of the Handicapped for students in grade 1-8 designing and implementing programs for children with learning disabilities. In addition, she taught grades 3 and 5 by providing instruction in all subjects areas. Mrs. D'Loughy also served the Berlin Community School while working on the Curriculum Development Committee for grade 5.

From 1994-1996, Mrs. D'Loughy taught in Frederick County Public Schools as a Title I tutor. Through the Title I program, she worked with students providing supplemental instruction in language arts and math for individuals who were lower-achieving. Mrs D'Loughy also spent time providing individual instruction given to handicapped children as a Special Education Instructional Assistant.

From 1997-2000, Mrs. D'Loughy was a teacher at the Visitation Academy where she taught all subjects to grades 2 and 3 while also sitting on the math committee and serving as the advisor for special education. She finally rejoined the faculty at SJRCS in the fall of 2000 as a first grade teacher. Since the fall of 2000, she has instructed students in both first and fourth grade until the fall of 2013 when she accepted the appointment from Principal Karen Smith to be the PRIDE (Pupils Receiving Inclusive Diversified Education) Program Teacher at SJRCS.

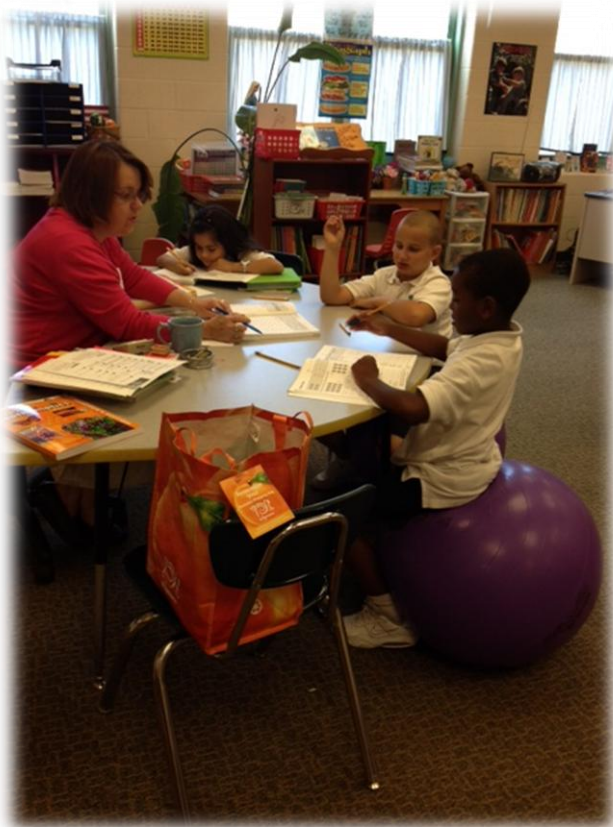
Through PRIDE the PRIDE Program students benefit in three ways:

1. A Personalized Progress Plan (PPP) is developed for each PRIDE student. Special educators use the PPP to plan Language Arts and Math instruction in a small group setting. These groups meet during the regularly scheduled Language Arts and Math instructional times.
2. Each child in the program is an integral part of the general education classroom. Most of their day is spent with classmates in social studies, science, religion and special area subjects. Students meet with success in mastering these content areas. Accommodations based upon their Personalized Progress Plan support achievement.
3. Supported by the total school community, PRIDE students, their parents and teachers partner to create an environment where all students meet success through ongoing parent

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support, professional development for all teachers, and integration of educational technology

Since Mrs. D'Loughy began her career, she has dedicated herself to educating young people and, more specifically, striving to make a positive impact on students with special needs. From the moment that she was certified to teach, the objective (according to her certificate) was to minister to students in the realm of special education. She was an obvious choice for the PRIDE teacher at SJRCs in its inaugural year implementing the program because of her extensive training, education, and expertise in the area of students with special needs.



In the statement required of all new Archdiocese of Baltimore teachers, Mrs. D'Loughy wrote the following about her perception of what her role as a Catholic school educator should be:

*“...it is my duty to be a positive example for the students entrusted to me. This can be achieved through gentle guidance and by exhibiting behaviors that would be desirable for the children to imitate. It is my job to ensure an atmosphere in which children are able to achieve and learn to their fullest potential. The goal of education is to give children the tools they need to go beyond the classroom and relate what they have learned to their everyday lives...to encourage productive, happy, contributing members of society based on the teachings of the Catholic Church.”*

For many years, beginning at our Second Street location, Mrs. D'Loughy worked very closely with her teaching assistant, Mrs. Lily Spelman. Mrs. Spelman describes Mrs. D'Loughy as *“a teacher who is very organized and really cares about her students. She wants them all to do very well. When she has time to work with individual students she will use it to help them keep up or improve. I truly enjoyed working with her.”*

In addition to working alongside Mrs. Spelman for many years, Mrs. D'Loughy also taught with other exceptional teachers who feel the very same way about her abilities and talents as an educator.

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Ms. Jeri Gramil, who still currently teaches in SJRCS's fourth grade, described her former teaching partner in the following way:

*Joan is such a dedicated, hard-working teacher.  
She loves the students and works very hard to help them be successful.  
She was a great partner and was always there to pick me up when I was down.  
She really deserves this award.*

When the Frederick News Post reported on the new PRIDE Program at SJRCS, they made sure to spotlight the unique students that would benefit from this specific course of study. What was also made clear was the perspective of the individual that would be ministering to these exceptional young people on a daily basis. Mrs. D'Loughy stated that through this program, she could truly meet the children where they are in terms of their ability and do so through individualized instruction. Individualized instruction within a program of this nature takes a degree of dedication that most people do not possess in their own vocation. Mrs. D'Loughy goes on to say in the article that "the parents whose children are in PRIDE are very, very happy. I think (the students) know they're being successful and that makes them feel good about themselves."

Principal Karen Smith states in the article that as a Catholic institution we are called, as a part of Catholic social teaching, to respond proactively to the increase of families who are applying to our school who have students with special needs. She continues to say, "I felt that we needed more support in meeting their needs." Mrs. Joan D'Loughy personifies this calling that, as a Catholic Church, we are compelled to answer. Mrs. D'Loughy responds beautifully to this call and does so selflessly with one goal in mind: student achievement. (Article URL: <http://tinyurl.com/qy2u5wk>)



As was the case when she began her career, Mrs. D'Loughy sought to make a positive, lasting impact on all of her students. It was the recognition of this characteristic which made her the easy choice to be the head PRIDE Teacher at SJRCS. Her one professional desire is to help students succeed by reaching their full potential and reinforce the positive perspective they should have of themselves. It has not simply been her students that have benefitted from Mrs. D'Loughy's influence over the years. As indicated above, her assistants and teaching partners reap the benefits of knowing her and collaboratively ministering to the students entrusted to their care each and every day.

St. John Regional Catholic School is **PROUD** to nominate Mrs. Joan D'Loughy for the St. Katharine Drexel Knights of Columbus Teacher of the Year award because her dedication and limitless commitment to our students has been felt from the youngest to the oldest. No matter what a student's gifts or abilities she has been and will continue to be a teacher who is an example to all through her faithful devotion to her students.