

*Matthew  
Courchane  
Middle School  
Science*



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I came to St. John the Evangelist in 2017, with more than 20 years of experience in Catholic Education. After a brief career as a lawyer in Chicago, I realized my future lay in education. I received my education credentials from Loyola University in Chicago. After working as a substitute teacher in Chicago area schools I moved to Greendale, WI in 1996 with my wife, Dr. Sandra Scalzitti. We have a child in high school and another beginning college, so I know how education has changed over the years in ways that affect families as well as teachers. I found a job teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Matthew's in Milwaukee (later Prince of Peace School). My move, and my rooms here, reflect my passion for science. I believe science is vital for understanding the world around us. In my room students will pursue investigations into the world around them. I believe science should involve hands-on learning, coupled with an understanding of the history of science. Students will learn and apply the scientific method throughout the year. My science lessons are tailored around the **Next Generation Science Standards**. To paraphrase this large set of information, my science instruction is based around a few key ideas.

**Teach less, but teach it deeper.** We may not learn the name of every mammal in North America, but we will learn how animals are adapted to their specific environments.

**Cross Cutting Concepts;** develop students' ability to do things such as find cause and effect relationships whether they are studying how plants grow, water changes state, or continents drift.

We will develop **scientific skills:** making and using models, gathering and analyzing data, investigating problems and designing solutions.

**Evaluating sources of information.** Science is based on fact, not opinion. We will learn how to determine the difference between these two things and how to find facts among various sources of information.

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