

*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 7th and 8th 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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