

# Faculty Highlight

## Kimberly Munday

### First Grade



**What do you teach at James L. Collins Catholic School and how long have you been teaching here?**

This is my 9th year teaching First Grade at JLCCS. I also teach Kindergarten Religion. I also taught in Public School for 8 years. All my teaching career has been in First Grade.

**What college did you attend and what degree do you hold? Specializations?**

I have my Associates degree from Navarro College and my Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M Commerce. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies specializing in Reading. I also have an English as a Second Language Supplemental Certificate.

**What motivates you each morning when you come to work?**

My students motivate me to come to work each morning. I absolutely love to teach and my students inspire me each and every day. I love to see their smiling faces, listening to their funny stories, learning about their home life and most of all, seeing the joy in their faces when they learn something new or finally get something they were struggling with.

**How do you incorporate the 4 cornerstones into your daily classroom setting?**

Well anyone that knows me knows that teaching Religion is my favorite subject to teach. I incorporate the 4 cornerstones by teaching about the lives of the Saints, by teaching the Beatitudes, by teaching the Works of Mercy. Students enjoy the statues and pictures that I incorporate into our Saints lessons because it helps them to see that they were real people. We are always reminding ourselves to treat others like Jesus and we always ask ourselves what would Jesus do in this situation.

**What would your students be surprised to find out about you?**

That I love ballroom dance and that I take ballroom dance lessons.

**What is one thing that sets your teaching method apart from other teachers at other schools?**

I love to use catchy songs and poems to teach difficult material. I also like to incorporate hands-on activities and hands on manipulatives. The students love to learn with my songs and silly, catchy sayings. I also try to teach like I was taught in Catholic school by the Nuns that worked there. I teach a lot about the Catholic faith that include lots of the tiny details that other teachers may not think of or be aware of. My students absolutely love learning about the Saints and almost every day they will ask if we are learning about a new Saint. I try my best to teach with kindness and encouragement and I try to make my students feel like I truly care about them, not just in school but also outside of school.

**What is your favorite aspect about teaching at a Christian school?**

My favorite aspect about teaching at a Catholic school is of course teaching about the Catholic faith. But I also love that I have the freedom to teach how I want without all the stipulations that you have in public schools. I like the small atmosphere, the family feeling that you pick up on as soon as you walk into the school. I know everyone's names and we all care for each other. I really enjoy all the fun activities we do like red ribbon week activities, Catholic Schools week activities, the Advent program that we do. I also love that we can say the rosary together as a school and the stations of the cross. I like knowing that I can talk about my faith at anytime during the school day.

**Which event at the school do you look forward to and why?**

I look forward to our Advent program, our Lent and Easter activities and I always look forward to our annual fundraiser.

**What advice would you give to your students to help them be more successful?**

Always take the Lord with you wherever you go and always go to Him when you are struggling or need help with something. You have to work hard to achieve your dreams, but if you keep at it you can do anything. Let others help you, stay kind and humble, and never give up. Keep practicing, keep trying, keep studying, and never be afraid to ask for help.