
Congratulations to our very own...

Mrs. Loretto Canfield

for receiving....

The 2021 STANYS Excellence in Science Teaching Award

What is the STANYS Excellence in Teaching Award?

- Teachers with careers that exemplify the STANYS mission receive the *STANYS Excellence in Science Teaching Award*.
- Their work showcases excellence in teaching, leading, and providing opportunities for all students to participate in and learn Science.
- The award is given yearly to only one teacher in the state!

The STANYS Mission

"The Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS) promotes excellence in Science education. Our mission is to work with educators and communities to provide opportunities for ALL students to participate in and learn Science."



Interview with Mrs. Loretto Canfield:

How did you get started with Science, what sparked your initial interest?

I have always been interested in Science. I can't remember not being interested in it! Originally, I thought I would like to be a doctor.

When did you realize you wanted to become a Science teacher?

I always wanted to be a doctor. I used to get so frustrated when one of my college professors, Sr. Helen Burke, would tell me that I wasn't going to be a doctor -- I would be a teacher! Then, I got accepted into medical school, but I also met my husband and somehow knew that medical school wasn't for me. I went into research for a number of years, but left when I had my children. I taught a couple of undergraduate courses while I was in grad school, so after working in research, I started to teach for several area colleges. After about 10 years, I came to Saint Martin de Porres!

What is your greatest accomplishment as a Science teacher?

I am not sure how to address a “greatest accomplishment”. Being a teacher is not only about doing big “things” – it is also about doing all of the little things, and doing them all well. My accomplishments are my students' accomplishments.

How have you seen Science change over the years in schools?

Science has changed a lot over the years! We now have exciting new teaching and learning standards that will make classroom Science more “real world”. I have been working hard to bring those standards to Saint Martin de Porres School and the rest of the Archdiocesan schools.

I think the biggest change (and challenge) has been technology. Science can no longer be the memorization of a bunch of facts. Anyone can find those on Google instantly. A Science class has to be less about learning Science facts.....and more about *doing* Science!

How have you helped the Archdiocese with regards to Science in an overall sense..... and particularly with the new learning standards?

I have tried very hard through the years to be an advocate for excellence in Science education. I have tried to share my knowledge of the trends in Science, much of which came from my participation in STANYS. I am, possibly, the leading cheerleader for Science education in our schools.

Do you still teach students the same way or has your style evolved over the years? If so, how? How have students changed?

So much has changed in Science and Science education over the years that it cannot be taught in the same way. The focus has become more about the process of Science and less about Science facts. While facts are still important, technology has made it possible for us to access facts in a matter of seconds. *Hands-on work* is really the key in Science education.

Students have also become much more focused on technology. While we don't want the students to become too reliant on technology, it is great that many are becoming more independent and confident in their ability to find facts through efficient research.

Additionally, our students have become excellent at distinguishing between good and bad information. But they are still kids. They still need many of the same things we all did - especially a teacher who supports them.

What do you still want to accomplish at St. Martin de Porres School as a science teacher?

As stated earlier, my accomplishments are my students' accomplishments. And so, I want to continue to teach Science and promote learning, so that my students continue to achieve and accomplish everything they are capable of, truly reaching their full potential!

What has been your greatest challenge during covid?

There was new software and new hardware to learn, and we had to do it in an instant! It is kind of fun to look at where we are now with technology, realizing that report cards were hand written when I started teaching! I never would have imagined teacher websites, learning management systems and virtual classrooms when I started teaching years ago!

Already a legend at SMdP, what do you want your legacy to be?

I hope that my legacy will be that I loved each and every one of my students.



Quotes regarding Mrs. Canfield:

***We love how Mrs. Canfield brings excitement to science and prepares our children for the future. She has a way of teaching difficult concepts with easy to understand, real-world examples that children can understand. Her hands-on approach to teaching science has sparked the curiosity of our children and their love for the subject. - N. F.**

***Mrs. Canfield is a wonderful science teacher! She demands the very best from her students while giving her very best! She is now teaching our fourth child and with each of our children, she has brought out the very best in them while giving them such strong fundamentals in all areas of science that they have each excelled in every science course they have taken in high school and beyond! -M.A.**

***I cannot tell you how many times I have said to my kids Mrs. Canfield is a blessing you don't even know you have and one day your going to look back appreciate everything she has taught you. Fast forward a few years to high school and I cannot tell you how many times I heard "Thank God, for Mrs. Canfield. " I also have to mention they all kept their notebooks which have come in handy more than once. Our kids were so lucky to have her not only as a teacher but as a role model. I appreciate her in so many ways. We are all better, for knowing her. Thank you and Congratulations. -E.M.**

***Mrs. Canfield is a blessing to our school! As long as students work hard, she will go above and beyond to make sure they succeed. -J.Z.**

Congratulations, Mrs. Canfield!

