

Hello! I'm Susan Barutt and I teach 2nd grade. This is my 9th year at St. Francis, and my first year teaching 2nd grade! Previously, I taught middle school grades (5-8) in a variety of combinations, mostly focusing on math and science. Second grade has been a big change for me and it has been fun learning the 7-yr.-old way of thinking! They have had me chuckling more than a few times!

I have lived in Minnesota almost all of my life. I grew up in Kenyon and received my Bachelor of Arts degree in vocal/choral music from Bemidji State University. After working in some dull, unsatisfying jobs for several years (unrelated to music or children), I went back to school to pursue a career that is more interesting, challenging, and satisfying. I then received my B.S. in elementary education at St. Cloud State University and have been working at St. Francis ever since. My wish for an interesting, challenging job has been fulfilled. It is never dull! Every year, even every day, I learn something new.

I love St. Francis School! The staff is terrific to work with and the parental support always impresses me. I love being able to use Christian values as the ideal for behavioral expectations. One of the first things that impressed me when I started working here was how well the first-graders could read! I was truly amazed at how much they had accomplished by the end of the year – enough to be able to read at Mass! I also like how all the kids get so much enjoyment out of participating in Mass. They all want a part!

I live in Deerwood with my husband Jim, our 16-yr-old son and daughter (twins), and 4 cats who think they own the house. We attend St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby. I have been an active member of the parish since moving to Deerwood and spent 13 years directing a contemporary music group there. In my free time, I love to travel, read, quilt, sing, and play the piano.