

My name is Jennifer (Des Marais) Ranweiler and I teach third grade at St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School.

I was born in Staples, Minnesota where I went to Sacred Heart Catholic School until moving to Baxter in 1995. I went to St. Francis School from 5th – 7th grade. It's so funny to be on the other side of things now!

I graduated from Brainerd High School in 2002 and went to Central Lakes College from 2002 – 2004 and earned my A.A. Degree. Southwest Minnesota State University offered an elementary education program at CLC, so I earned my B.S. in Elementary Education through SMSU. Because of that program, I was able to stay in Brainerd and work part time as a kindergarten assistant at St. Francis School while working on my degree. When I graduated in Fall of 2006, I was hired as a first grade teacher for the 2007-2008 school year.

Teaching at St. Francis has been such a great experience for me. I love to see and be a part of how much children learn and grow. It's so rewarding to see how kids change and what they learn from the beginning of the year to the end.

I also love the staff here. They are all wonderful. I feel like we support each other in so many ways both professionally and personally. Everything from sharing lesson and classroom ideas, staff meetings, and in-services, to dinners and special celebrations after school hours make our school a very enjoyable place to be as a teacher.

After dating for many years, my husband, Andrew (AJ), and I got married in December of 2008. We live in Brainerd and enjoy grilling, visiting Florida, snowmobiling, and getting out on the lake in the summer every chance we get! We also have a daughter, Kaylee, who has been such a blessing in our lives.

From attending elementary school, to working a part-time job while in college, to starting my career, St. Francis School has always been a part of my life. I feel very blessed to have had the many wonderful experiences here that I have had.