

## Catholic Identity – Carl Schmittgens

As the Catholic Star Innovator at Saint Teresa’s Academy, Carl Schmittgens is dedicated to integrating Catholicism into everything STA does. As it is important to stay connected to the foundation of what our community was built upon, Schmittgens provides resources on ways to maintain Catholic values. “I keep up to date with the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Catholic events happening in Kansas City,” says Schmittgens. He adds, “I also provide ideas for our faculty and staff to use to grow in the faith of the Catholic church.”

In the classroom, Schmittgens believes it is possible to teach the Catholic perspective and response to different ideas, especially when living in a global and interconnected world. Particularly, through his class, Catholic Social Teaching, for juniors. Through this course, students learn to apply their Catholic morals to being a citizen of the world. “I try to relate everything back to the Sisters of Saint Joseph ... they are great role models for living a life dedicated to social justice,” Schmittgens said. He continues, “Standing for the poor and vulnerable and peacefully advocating against injustices are things I try to model in my classroom.”

Schmittgens is also a Kairos leader. “Kairos is an optional three-day retreat for juniors for students and teachers to talk to one another and grow in their relationships with God. It’s a great way for teachers and students to see the human person in one another,” Schmittgens said. Through Kairos, Schmittgens helps students to explore God in their own lives, creating meaningful relationships with each student.

Contributed by: Galilia Lofland DeLaPaz, STA sophomore

