

## **Spotlight on a Board Member Parliamentarian/Volunteer Coordinator: Jenifer Lapinsky**



We would like our parents to get to know your PTO Board Members and what they do for our school. These are people you have elected to represent you this school year. They are amazing people and we are very blessed to have them all.

### **What is your current position and what are your primary duties?**

My current Board position is Parliamentarian and Volunteer Coordinator. This is my first year as a Board member and I've been in this role since May 2014. I would like to continue in this role next year and continue the work I've started with the By-Laws Committee, as well as continue my efforts as Volunteer Coordinator. The key component of my position is to maintain the By-Laws, ensure that meetings run smoothly and head up the Nominating Committee for yearly elections. I am also the go-to person for teachers and staff to coordinate volunteers for any activities where they may require assistance such as school photos, Walk Across Williamson, etc.

Prior to joining the Board, I had served as a Room Parent, Room Parent Coordinator, and was the Auction Chairperson for the 2013 Family Fun Night. I truly enjoyed the position of Room Parent Coordinator and would have continued in that role if I had not joined the Executive Board. It was a natural transition to move from Room Parent Coordinator to Volunteer Coordinator. As Volunteer Coordinator, I am able to maintain my relationship with Room Parents and continue supporting them as well as our wonderful teachers and staff. It makes me very happy to be a part of PTO activities that provide a service to our staff and allow parents the opportunity to volunteer. The most recent activity that we did that I really enjoyed was the Gift Wrapping for our staff. It was so much fun to be able to work with our amazing parents in a fun, relaxed setting. We played Christmas music and just spent the morning wrapping presents and chatting. It was truly amazing!!

### **What is your favorite thing about being on the board and volunteering?**

My favorite thing about being on the Board is simply being involved and helping out. Since my son started at Kenrose, I have always volunteered in some capacity. I jumped right in and helped with Family Fun Night by soliciting donations for the auction. I feel that volunteering and being active in the school helps me to feel connected and know what is happening within the Kenrose community. The amount of time spent per week on my job really depends on what is going on. I will be very busy during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week but not so much other times.

### **Do you have any advice for others who would like to get more involved?**

In terms of volunteering, you can volunteer a lot or a little. It really depends on your own schedule/flexibility and what you are interested in. I don't find my position on the Board overwhelming or burdensome. I enjoy what I do and understand that there are times of the year that I may be busier but it all balances out in the end. The one thing I have learned from being on the Board is how much I didn't know and continue to learn. That may sound silly but it is true. I have also learned that it is okay to ask questions and change is and can be good. The most rewarding part of my job is working with parents and giving back to our teachers and staff. I again give the example of wrapping the gifts in December. I got to meet some great new parents I hadn't met before, had a really fun morning and walked away with a tremendous feeling of joy from making other people happy. To me, it is just that simple. If I can make someone else happy, it brings me happiness and makes me enjoy what I do. My final thought is that even if things get tough or difficult, we need to remember the reason for doing all of this – it is our kids. My son Jake is my number one motivator.