



# Faculty Focus

MR. DOUGLAS SCHAFFER

St. Pius X alumni? No

Years teaching/Years teaching at St. Pius X: 10/1

Department: Music

Coaching or club sponsorship roles: Band and choir

Degree(s)/Degree-granting institution: Bachelor in Music from Lindenwood University, Masters of Music Education from Central Methodist University, and I am working on an Educational Doctorate in Leadership.

Academic area: Music

When did you decide to become a teacher, and why did you choose this field? I knew I wanted to go into education as early as my freshman year because I wanted to coach. I landed on music by my junior year because it was the subject that best held my interest, and it was where I felt I could make the biggest impact.

What do you like most about teaching as a career? There are instant successes. We may take a few weeks working on the concept, but once it does gel, it locks in so quickly, and you see the students immediately thrive.

What is the greatest success you have had teaching? It would be easy to put the competitive successes, but the best ones are the students who still reach out after graduation. The ones who “check in” and still aren’t afraid to ask for help. Those students, I know I have made them know they will always have someone they can trust in me.

What is your favorite thing about working at St. Pius X? This truly is an environment like no other. I have been in several districts, and I have not seen students who are this dedicated to success, nor have I had colleagues who make a point to check in on the new person. St. Pius X clearly is a community and that is something that is special.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve been given? The grass is always greener where you water it.

Outside of work, what are you passionate about? I enjoy spending time with my wife, playing video games, and sitting around with my dog, Deuce.

What did you want to be when you were growing up? The next great basketball coach.