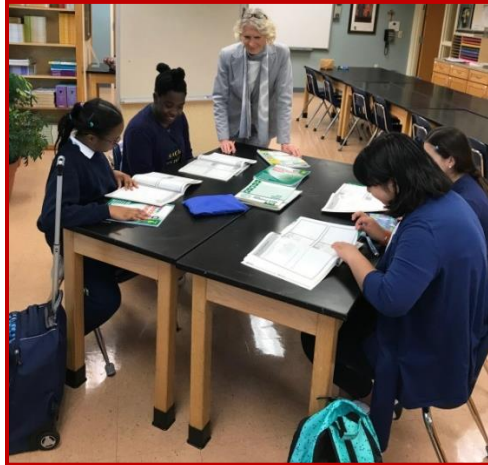




MERCY CENTER

A Profile in Mercy: Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan



After retiring from 25 years at St. Catharine's in Spring Lake, Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan still had a strong "desire to teach." Friends introduced her to Sisters Academy and she discovered a wonderful opportunity to "do some good" for students who do not have the same advantages children from higher income families have.

Every week Barbara comes to the Academy and teaches Math Enrichment to 5th & 6th graders. The program focuses on logical thinking to approach and solve word problems. She quickly learned that even though many of these girls arrived at Sisters Academy below grade level, they showed remarkable potential and interest in learning. Some students enter fifth grade deficient in required skills, such as knowing their multiplication tables because of lack of discipline and encouragement in previous learning environments; however, the potential is there. Barbara has witnessed quick improvement in basic skills and applying them to solving word problems. "When kids are given a chance and told they are expected to succeed, it's amazing what they are capable of, you unleash their potential", claims Barbara. She is a strong believer in our philosophy and our integration of Christian values into our curriculum.

Barbara is a very active in her community. She serves as President of the Spring Lake Historical Society and is Chairperson of the Monmouth County Historical Commission. She is a member and past president of the Garden Club of Spring Lake, and in the spring she helps with the Gardening Program at Sisters Academy. She actively participates at St. Catharine Church as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She enjoys reading, golf, skiing, boogie boarding and walking on the board walk.

Barbara, we are so fortunate to have you as a teacher and an advocate. Thank you for your commitment to us.

Sisters Academy is unique for many reasons, one of which the dedication of incredible volunteers who share their talents in music, art, physical education, food service and tutoring, like Barbara does. This expertise exposes our students to a rigorous curriculum and allows for specialized attention. This is how we provide an education of excellence to economically challenged girls in Asbury Park so they can succeed in higher education and in life.

To learn about our volunteer opportunities at Mercy Center, please call (732) 774-9397 ext. 121.