

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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O'HARA'S MUSIC TEACHER HONORED FOR HER EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Mrs. Kathryn Leonard, full-time music specialist at O'Hara Catholic School, has been named September's recipient of the Excellence in Education Award presented by New Country 93.3 and Northwest Community Credit Union. The Excellence in Education Award is given monthly to an individual making a difference in our schools and community; each monthly winner is awarded a \$100 gift certificate from Northwest Community Credit Union.

An award presentation will take place at O'Hara Catholic School on Thursday, October 25, at 10am; media are invited to attend.

About Mrs. Leonard:

Mrs. Kathryn Leonard provides a well-rounded musical experience for O'Hara's 500+ students, ages Preschool through 8th grade. She sees each class twice a week providing them not only with theory of music, but more importantly, hands on experiences with all types of musical instruments. She instills a true love of learning music to her students, encourages them to try new things and grow in their own skills. She has an amazing ability to improve student confidence! Mrs. Leonard directs O'Hara's Spring and Christmas Programs where each class performs – speaking, singing and playing musical instruments. Mrs. Leonard leads the middle school Choir Program and annual drama productions. Middle School Choir performs at our school masses, assemblies and around our community. The Drama Program is open to students in 5th-8th grade; last year, more than 80 students participated in a 3-day production of *Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.* Mrs. Leonard fills student hearts and O'Hara's halls with the love of music.

Mrs. Leonard has been active in the Eugene community as a performer and an educator for over a decade. She is a certified music teacher for early childhood through middle school, and holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Pedagogy Concentration from Marylhurst University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Pacific University. She has been at O'Hara since 2012.

Kathryn was the director of the Junior Academy Singers Girlchoir for Oregon Children's Choir for 5 years. Kathryn has served on the voice faculty of The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts and was the Music Director and Curriculum Designer for the Eugene Concert Choir's Educational Outreach Program. As a performer locally, Kathryn has been a soloist for the Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Eugene Concert Choir. At The Shedd Institute, she has been seen as Luciana in *The Boys From Syracuse*, Tuptim in *The King and I*, and Shirley Vernon in *Lady, Be Good*. She has been featured with The Emerald City Jazz Kings since 2017. Additionally, Kathryn has worked with professionals from Tony-award winning musicals as part of master classes through the Broadway Teachers Workshop in New York City.

O'Hara Catholic School serves over 500 children from the greater Eugene/Springfield area. O'Hara provides a high-quality education and a faith-filled, nurturing environment for students in grades Pre-School through 8th.

School Motto: *Enter to Learn. Go Forth to Serve.*

Mission Statement: *O'Hara Catholic School, as an instrument of Christ and the Roman Catholic Church, is dedicated to developing the whole child in a secure and nurturing environment. In partnership with and as an extension of the family, we encourage our students to strive for excellence, to be life-long learners, to demonstrate strong Catholic values, and to generously serve God and others.*

To learn more about O'Hara, please visit our website: www.oharaschool.org