Miss Mary Belle Laroque – 3rd Grade Teacher *(Celebrating seven years)*

What is your professional background? I have a B.S. degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Millersville University. I am in my 6th year of teaching at Saint Norbert School, after having taught for 31 years at Saint Monica School in Berwyn, where I taught both 2nd and 3rd grades.

What inspired you to choose teaching (education) as your profession? I am part of a large family, and so have been around children my whole life. I have always enjoyed being around children and helping them, as a teacher, is so rewarding. Becoming a teacher has offered me the opportunity to be around children every day, and I truly cannot imagine my life any other way. To be able to touch the life of a child is what motivates me to teach every day.

What is your favorite tradition at Saint Norbert's? I love how we start out every day at Saint Norbert's in morning prayer. It is such a peaceful and thoughtful way to start the day, and a special way to come together as a community. It is a wonderful way for both the teachers and the students to stay grounded, centered and focused.

What aspect of "Be Your Bulldog Best" most appeals to you? I like the "be respectful "aspect of "Be Your Bulldog Best", as I think it's an important trait on which everyone should work. I know that all our parents try hard to teach respect at home, so I feel it's our job, as teachers, to reinforce being respectful in school. It's just one of the many ways Saint Norbert's teachers work in partnership with parents.

What is your favorite thing about Saint Norbert School? Saint Norbert's has a wonderful sense of community, which is something I felt since the first day I joined SNS. I was welcomed immediately, and everyone, from teachers, to administration to parents, has been so friendly. It makes me feel like I'm part of another family, besides my own. I also really enjoy the school liturgies – they are one of the things that sets Saint Norbert School apart from other schools.