Drawn by the Centrality of Christ

On the first day of the 2017-2018 school year, Isaac Carrano (7th grade) and Beth Hunt (10th grade) entered their first school outside the home, St. Ambrose Academy (SAA). Both sets of parents, James and Jess Carrano and John and Cheryl Hunt, were united in their desire to see their students transition well into a “bricks and mortar” school. Cheryl Hunt is happy and relieved: “I really appreciate being able to ‘retire’ after 18 years of professor. When her husband, Mark Pitsch, began a new job as an editor for the Wisconsin State Journal, her family moved to Madison and Dr. Skemp began teaching part time at UW-Madison, UW-Whitewater, Edgewood College, and Madison College.

Seeking a full-time opportunity, Dr. Skemp accepted a position on the Catholic Herald staff a couple of years ago, where she met SAA Board member Grant Emmel at the Holy Name Heights offices. Now at St. Ambrose, she is enjoying teaching Latin I to freshmen and sophomores and English III to juniors and seniors. Dr. Skemp is also helping high school students with college and career planning.

“The students here are so familiar with each other and so relaxed that I really don’t notice any anxiety as far as participation goes,” she observes. She has appreciated finding SAA students to be “very engaged and opinionated” in class discussions, which focus on American poetry in English III this semester.

Dr. Skemp and her husband have two children, Henry age 15 and Sophie age 13. In her spare time she loves to read (“Everything!”), knit, and compete in sprint triathlons, where she loves the swimming and biking, and endures the running part!
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