



Yo soy Mrs. Rison (or *Profesora Rison*). *Mucho gusto!* I've been part of the St. Peter's *familia* playing piano at masses since 2013, but I'm very happy to have joined the school family to teach *Español* and now Music as well. I have a B.A. in Spanish Literature and a Business Administration minor from Chestnut Hill College, a small Catholic school just outside of Philadelphia. I have played piano for 20+ years, and also play the flute, oboe, saxophone, and the euphonium. In my free time I enjoy singing, reading, painting, watching movies, and spending time with my *esposo*, our *hijos*, Adam and Simon, and our *perro*, Slinky pup.



MUSIC

We have had an awesome year in music class so far, specifically with regards to our choral achievements! During a field trip to historic St. Mary's City, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades made me proud with their beautiful a capella rendition of "Hail, Holy Queen" in the Brick chapel. The group received many compliments. We are also excited for an upcoming St. Peter's Spirit Night/Blue Ribbon celebration during which one of our 8th graders will sing the National Anthem at the start of a Blue Crabs baseball game! During the 7th inning stretch, some of our students will also be singing "America, the Beautiful" on the field. Go Storm!



Winners of my "Name that tune" board this quarter

In our younger grades, we have been learning all about rhythm and even reading music notation using beanbags. We loooooove holding out whole notes and practicing our ability to keep a steady beat by patting on our laps or passing claps around our circle of students.

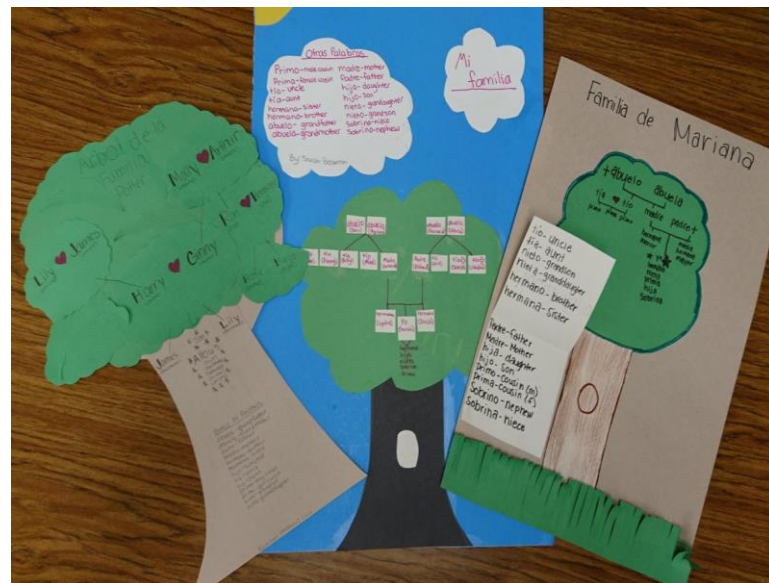
We also listened to lots of music and practiced differentiating between *presto* (fast), *moderato* (medium), and *lento* (slow) tempos, or speeds. The students had a blast waving our parachute to match different tempos. *Lento* was (surprisingly) the favorite!



ESPAÑOL

8th grade is excelling at describing things and people, and expressing plans/things they have to do using the different conjugations of "ir a" (to go to), "tener que" (to have to) and "necesitar" (to need). ¡Qué clase más inteligente! Tenemos que estudiar algo más difícil.

7th grade is learning how to describe people in their *familias y clases*, and will soon do an "All About Me" project using everything they've learned. Some of their family tree projects were so creative and beautiful.



6th grade has mastered the "Padre Nuestro" or "Our Father" prayer and made some great calendars in Spanish which can be seen hanging outside of my classroom. Their calendars demonstrate their knowledge of days, months, seasons, and other vocabulary words related to their month. Each student also has their *cumpleaños* noted so we can remember to celebrate their special day!

Elementary grades have been practicing numbers in Spanish, and some classes are even doing addition and subtraction equations! *Quince menos cinco son diez, pero quince más cinco son veinte.* (Or, $15-5=10$ but $15+5=20$.) We are also enjoying practicing our numbers by sharing our ages and birthday months with our classmates in Spanish.

MUSIC

What a great way to end 2017! Our music classes did a phenomenal job preparing for the Christmas Program which went off without a hitch. Middle School students performed a Living Nativity with grades 1-5 singing accompanying Christmas tunes to match each scene. Special thanks to all the participants, especially my actors, narrators, soloists, handbell players, and Mrs. Beagley for jumping headfirst into the role of Stage Manager/Director. It couldn't have come together without your commitment and enthusiasm! Pre-K and Kindergarten also did awesomely at their own mini-Christmas Program during St. Peter's Breakfast with Santa event, singing a couple Christmas songs to kick off all the activities that morning.



8th Grade did an enlightening cross-curricular Art/Music project designing an album cover for a "Soundtrack of My Life" essay. I really enjoyed reading all their song choices and stories behind them. I made a Spotify playlist to represent moments in my own life, which you can find here if interested: <https://goo.gl/vGiVBM>

In the coming months, all classes will be learning some new hymns to sing during our weekly Masses. We'll also be doing a lot of listening exercises. What kinds of sounds or instruments might you associate with certain animals? What about emotions? Do different pitches or tones make you happy or sad or angry? What are some differences and similarities between different genres of music? These are some of the kinds of things we'll be exploring this winter.

ESPAÑOL

Middle school has been hard at work learning and practicing conjugations of regular verbs in the present tense in Spanish class. Elementary school classes have been enjoying presenting information about themselves to classmates using vocabulary words for their birthdays, favorite months, seasons, and even sharing about family member birthdays too. Spanish electives have begun expanding their vocabulary reading Spanish translations of well-known songs and fairy tales. We especially love learning Spanish versions of our favorite Disney songs!

Most classes have mastered the "Padre Nuestro" or "Our Father" prayer by now. 6th grade will be tested on their ability to recite it from memory in February. 7th and 8th grades have begun learning the "Ave María" and will need to recite it from memory in February as well.

*Dios te salve, María,
Llena eres de gracia,
El Señor es contigo!*

*Bendita tú eres entre todas las mujeres,
Y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús.*

*Santa María, madre de Dios,
Ruega por nosotros pecadores
Ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte.
Amen.*

Teacher tip:

Students can always get some extra practice outside of Spanish class by creating accounts on Duolingo.com and testing their skills there. Game on!

Spanish Vocabulary / Vocabulario

Yo soy – I am

Esposo – Spouse

Invierno – Winter

Hijos – Sons

Cumpleaños – Birthday

ir – to go

menos – minus

Estudiar algo – study something

Más difícil – More difficult

Familia – Family

Mucho gusto – Nice to meet you

La clase de Español – Spanish class

Perro – Dog

Clases – Classes

tener que – to have to

más – plus

*Qué clase más inteligente! –
What an intelligent class!*