



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* in 2016 and Music in 2017. 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*, Slinkypup.



ESPAÑOL

The year is flying by! Middle school Spanish classes are finishing up some awesome projects demonstrating some things they have learned since the beginning of the year. They utilized their artistic skills to draw different settings and label them with words we know. 8th grade students are working hard to prepare for high school language classes by practicing conjugation of different verbs every week. Most students are confident with all forms of regular "AR" verbs in the present tense, and are starting to add regular "ER" verbs as well as some slightly irregular verbs like "dar" and "ir".

Elementary students love to count and describe classroom objects and will begin learning how to describe animals too. "*Hay treinta alumnos en el salón de clase. Las sillas son azules.*" Younger students prefer to learn by singing songs in Spanish, especially "Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, pies" and the more movement-centered, "Marcha, Marcha, Marcha".



MÚSICA

Music classes did AMAZING with preparations for this year's Christmas Program. Students from Mrs. Beagley's middle school religion classes volunteered to participate as actors in our Living Nativity, and everyone did a fantastic job. Fifth grade provided music for Mary and Joseph's journey by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Second grade proudly sang "Silent Night" (including a verse in Spanish!) while Mary cradled the newborn baby Jesus. Third grade exuberantly sang like the choir of angels that appeared to the shepherds and announced the birth of our Lord with "Angels We Have Heard on High". Fourth grade sang "We Three Kings", telling all about the magi who traveled to worship Jesus and the gifts they brought for Him, the King of Kings.

Music Elective students added even more to the Program with special songs to get into the Christmas spirit and spread the message of peace and goodwill to all with "Carol of the Bells", "Christmas Canon", "Follow the Star", and my personal favorite, "Noel Peace Canon" (a medley that incorporates "Dona Nobis Pacem" with "The First Noel"). Finally, all classes joined together for the big show-stopping numbers: "Joy to the World" and "Christmas is a Time to Love" complete with students on handbells and a marimba. It was a beautiful night and I can't wait to watch the recording of the show in my Music Classes later this year to carry the spirit of Christmas on even after the season is over.



ESPAÑOL

¡Bienvenidos a las clases de español y música!
Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful summer vacation. I am excited to meet our new students at St. Peter's School, and get reacquainted with familiar faces as well. This year will be particularly interesting at the upper-elementary levels, because we are doubling the amount of Spanish classes taught each week! Grades 3, 4, and 5 will now have Spanish two times a week instead of one. I'm eager to see the positive effects this will have on students' ability to retain and recollect phrases and other information that we will work on in class. We will be reviewing basic conversational greetings and introducing ourselves to each other, and of course start every class with the Padre Nuestro prayer. Hopefully students remember some words in Spanish for dates, colors, animals, and classroom objects. We're going to practice putting what we know together to try and talk about ourselves and some of our favorite things.

The middle school grades are already hard at work trying to recall vocabulary words and rules from our last year together. Seventh and eighth grade students can provide sentences in Spanish describing general information about themselves, friends, family members, and classes. Soon we'll try to add even more specific details like *deportes*, hobbies, and schedules.

WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS:

Practice Spanish (or several other language options) using game-like lessons and quizzes on [Duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com). Another great Duolingo option I really enjoy is practicing reading and listening comprehension using [Duolingo Stories](https://www.duolingo.com/stories).

Practice Spanish AND help end world hunger on [Freerice.com](https://www.freerice.com). For each answer you get right, 10 grains of rice are donated to the United Nations World Food Program. Look under "LANGUAGE LEARNING" and choose Spanish to practice translating vocabulary words. (A lot of words in the early levels are cognates, meaning they're very similar in English and easy to guess even if you're still a beginner.)

MÚSICA

Although I don't see Pre-K, Kindergarten, or Grade 1 for Spanish class, I try to expose them to the language through fun songs in Music class. Don't be surprised if your child sometimes comes home singing something that may sound like gibberish, but is actually their version of Spanish song lyrics. Some of our favorites to sing together are "La araña pequeña" and "Hola a todos".

Other mid-elementary classes will be working on fundamental music theory like reading basic rhythm notation and even learning music notes on the staff. 3rd grade will soon start learning how to play the recorders, and hopefully build a solid foundation to help in the future if they decide to join Mr. Petrow's band in their 4th grade year.

All levels will also start preparations for our annual Christmas Program this fall. Who doesn't love singing Christmas carols and retelling the story of Jesus Christ's birth? Our brand new Music Elective will perform on the handbells for the Christmas Program, as well as learn new hymns for church, sing other fun songs, and review some general choral/music theory while we're at it.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

¡Que Dios te bendiga!

Vocabulario en español

Yo soy – I am

Mucho gusto – Nice to meet you

Familia – Family

Esposo – Spouse

La clase de Español – Spanish class

Hijos – Sons

Perro – Dog

Bienvenidos – Welcome

Padre Nuestro – Our Father

Deportes – Sports

La araña pequeña – The itzy bitsy spider

Hola a todos – Hello, everyone

Que Dios te bendiga – May God bless you