Meet Kandice Roethler, administrator at St. Patrick Catholic School in Perry, Iowa. Roethler earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Social Studies Education and Gifted Education from the University of Iowa, a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Drake University, and is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Drake University completing her dissertation in Educational Philosophy with a focus on Psychological Capital, Burnout, and Work Engagement in Teachers with an anticipated graduation date of December 2020. Before her time serving as a school administrator, she spent five years teaching gifted education. This school year marks Roethler's fifth year the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools.

"Catholic schools are always described as having a warm, family-like atmosphere and Saint Patrick School is no different," Roethler added. "You feel that welcoming spirit the moment you walk in the doors and it shows on the faces of our staff and students each day! Being in a Catholic School definitely feels right and just like I am where I belong."

During her tenure at St. Patrick, she has helped increase the school's presence in the Perry community by partnering with parent ambassadors to advocate on behalf of the school. She has also led initiatives to create student support services for both academics and behavior areas to ensure each and every St. Patrick student can have, believe and achieve his or her dreams.

Roethler's ultimate goal as an educational leader is to put students on a path for success beyond their time at St. Patrick -- into high school, college and beyond. To help put students on this path to future success, St. Patrick Catholic School has increased the use of technology as an instructional tool. One of the most recent additions was a coding program for students.

"Increased technologies help students find success in our world," noted Roethler. "Having devices in the hands of our students teaches them digital citizenship and how to be successful in our fast-paced world."

The product of a lifetime of Catholic education, Roethler attended Bishop Garrigan Catholic School System in North Central Iowa from Kindergarten through high school graduation. She was recently engaged with a wedding planned for next year. When she's not at school, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé and family, watching any Iowa sports (Go Hawkeyes!), hiking and lap swimming.