Meet Gretchen Watznauer

Meet Gretchen Watznauer, administrator at St. Theresa Catholic School. Watznauer brings more than 25 years of experience in education, having served as an assistant administrator at St. Francis of Assisi, a classroom teacher for Des Moines Public Schools and Waukee Community Schools, and a program coordinator with the Iowa Department of Education.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Sciences from Iowa State University, a Master of Education and Effective Teaching degree from Viterbo University, and holds an Advanced Certificate of Study in Educational Leadership PK-12 and Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor from the University of Northern Iowa.

As a leader in Catholic education, Watznauer facilitated data-driven professional development on professional learning communities, multi-tiered systems of support, and positive behavior interventions and support, including the implementation of restorative practices to address student behaviors and improve student outcomes. In addition to her academic expertise, Watznauer brings a wealth of experience in youth mentorship, leading retreats, and service-learning as the current Youth Director at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Granger, IA where she has helped form young parishioners in their faith for the past three years.

"All students can learn at high levels when challenged and supported. Growth comes from clear expectations, acknowledging what others do well and specific feedback for growth," said Watznauer. "I believe a rigorous academic atmosphere rich in religious education and servant leadership opportunities prepares a strong foundation for children where their knowledge and skills will guide them in becoming successful adults. I look forward to continuing this tradition of academic excellence and faith formation at St. Theresa Catholic School."