

My name is Karen Lysne and I am thrilled to be teaching First Grade at Holy Cross Academy! I grew up in Fredericksburg, went to George Mason University, taught in Fairfax County, married my husband Craig and moved and taught in Minnesota for 25 years and now I am back in Fredericksburg! Minnesota was a lovely state and all my children grew up there (and of course learned to play ice hockey) but I could hear Virginia calling me home! I also completed my master's degree at St. Mary's University in 2020 while in MN, which was a huge accomplishment for me after being out of school for more than 25 years! I learned that setting goals for ourselves even when we are "old" is important and necessary!

This is my second year at HCA! I feel privileged to have the opportunity to walk with students in both their academic and faith journey! Building positive, trusting relationships with students and families is one of my favorite things about teaching. One of my favorite quotes is by Dr. Comer and it says, "No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship," My goal is to make each and every student feel loved and valued!

In my spare time my family and I enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking and just spending time outdoors! My favorite saint is St. Francis of Assisi, as I have a huge soft spot for animals. I often find myself coming to the rescue of some animal or creature in need that I discovered in the yard or forest! (Much to my family's dismay!) I have found that over the years God has taught me many lessons through nature and his beautiful creation. I am always thankful for the opportunity to rejuvenate while being outside! God's mercy, love and splendor are evident in nature and I love that I get to talk about this daily to my students!