

Lindsay Irwin works as student advocate at St. Jo

Lindsay Irwin joined the faculty at St. Joseph Academy in 1997. During the past 17 years, she has held several different positions, as an English teacher, as director of guidance, as assistant principal for curriculum and instruction, and as director of the school choirs. She currently holds two positions: student advocate and liaison to the Marist Evangelization Office.

She feels her work in the Student Advocate Center embraces the Marist goal of valuing each student as an individual and of showing special concern for those who struggle and need extra support. As a student advocate, she assists students with their problems, helping them to get organized, to manage their time effectively, and to set effective goals for themselves. Some students who transfer to St. Joseph from other schools find they have difficulty handling the workload, and she provides help in dealing with that problem.

Some students seek her assistance on their own initiative, some are referred by classroom teachers, while others are referred by their parents.

She provides help in several ways: providing advice on how to get organized, helping students learn how to manage their time, scheduling time for students to receive extra tutoring from their teachers, and making visits with students to the school library. She evaluates each student's situation and works to come up with the best way to be of assistance.

In addition, she counsels with students about their plans for attending college. She helps them do research on different schools, and she helps in making a decision about which school they would like to attend. Then she guides them through the college application process.

In addition to her work in the Student Advocate Center, Irwin has done extensive work with the Marist Evangelization Office, headquartered in New York. She has served on the Advisory Board of the Evangelization Office, working to guide the programs sponsored by the department for students, alumni, and faculty. She also serves as Saint Joseph Academy's faculty liaison to the Evangelization Office and is responsible for planning activities to provide Marist spiritual formation for the faculty. She says that her work with the Evangelization Office helps her to keep focused on the Marist values behind her work at the school.

In 2001, the annual yearbook, "The Red and White," was dedicated to Irwin. She was described as one of the most recognized faculty members at SJA, who was in contact with students on a daily basis. She said she was proud to be part of the St. Joseph community, and was described as feeling she has been able to make a difference in the lives of students.

Her two sons, David and William, are both graduates of St. Joseph, as was her father, Dan Rentfro. Her brother Daniel is a Brownsville attorney, as was their father and several earlier generations of Rentfros. Members of the Rentfro family have a long history in Brownsville, dating back to the 1800s.



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