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## Family Science Night bridges gaps



Linda Moody  
Features Editor

GREENVILLE — St. Mary's seventh- and eighth-graders hosted a Family Science Night Tuesday night during Catholic Schools Week.

Families of those in grades 3-6 were invited to come to the basement of the school to go to different stations.

Kathy Pierri, who teaches fifth and sixth grades at St. Mary's School said this is part of a class she's taking at Miami University funded through an Ohio Board of Regents grant.

It was one of her assignments to host this event.

"It's all about teaching science with fun objects," Pierri said.

Ten stations, each featuring a specialty activity, were visited by the guests.

The event, designed for the whole family, gave them the opportunity to perform science activities on such topics as chemical reactions, air, capillary action, circular motion, adhesion, sound, sight and forces.

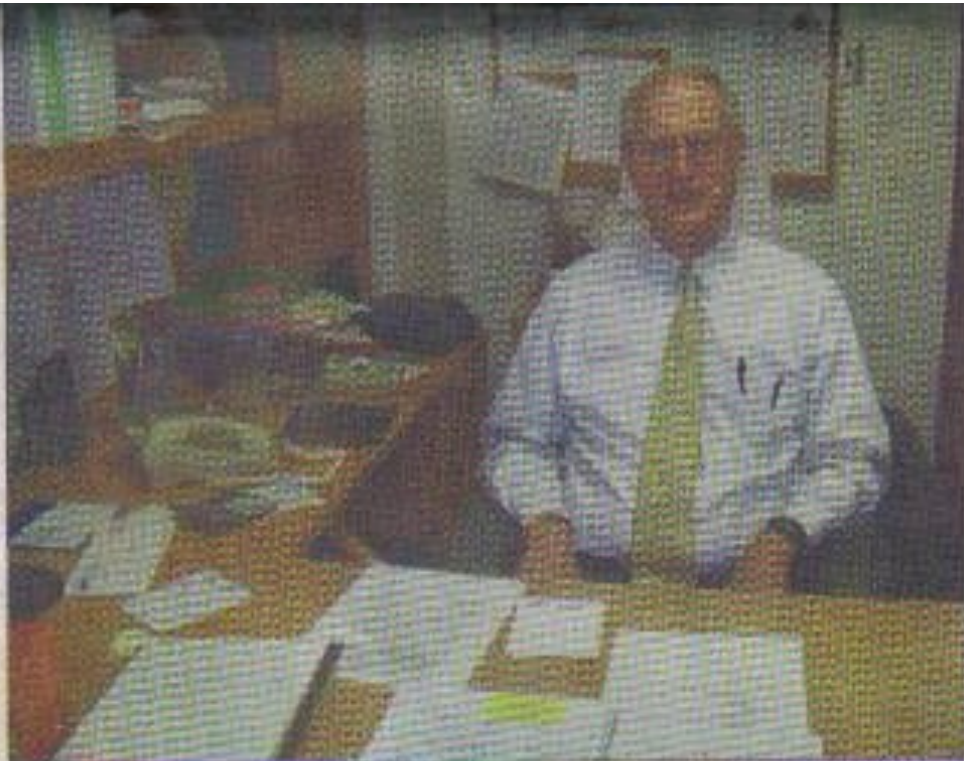
"Parent involvement in their children's education in positive ways is one of the best way to improve student performance in school," Pierri said. "Positive family involvement leads to higher grades and test scores, better attendance, attitudes and behavior. Family Science Night is one way to involve students and their parents in a positive and exciting way."

According to her, 21 families — which included 43 adults and 43 students — registered.



**LINDA MOODY/Advocate photo**

Pat Barga looks on as his granddaughter, Hayley Maher, performs a science activity at one of the 10 stations during Family Science Night at St. Mary's Catholic School on Tuesday evening.



Vernon Rosenbeck has taken over the position of principal at St. Mary's School. (Berry photo)

## St. Mary's School has new principal

BY RYAN BERRY  
MANAGING EDITOR

GREENVILLE – St. Mary's School is pleased to announce it has a new principal. Vernon Rosenbeck joined the school on Aug. 1 and is impressed with what he has already seen.

Rosenbeck has been an educator for 35 years, most of which has been spent in the public school system. He retired from the Russia School system in 2007 where he had served as superintendent and principal. In fact, his entire career, except for a short stint at Twin Valley South as interim superintendent and his current position at St. Mary's School, was in Russia. Rosenbeck still lives in Russia.

Rosenbeck wasn't ready to completely retire when he left Twin Valley South. After seeing an advertisement in the Catholic Telegraph, he decided to apply for the position at St. Mary's School. While there are no differences in the academics, Rosenbeck sees a big difference in the way the schools are funded. He believes his job is to make sure the school stays

open and enrollment increases. "This is maybe the best school in Darke County," he said.

He pointed out the students get a good Catholic education from teachers who really care about their students. Students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade benefit from small class sizes and stability in the faculty. Rosenbeck noted most of the teachers have been at St. Mary's for many years.

Students also benefit from the support received from parents and friends at St. Mary's School. "Our volunteers put in a lot of hours," he said. The volunteers allow the teachers to concentrate on the students and academics.

St. Mary's School is giving everyone an opportunity to see firsthand why they are considered one of the best schools in Darke County. On Nov. 15, 2-4 p.m., the school will be hosting an open house. Visitors will be able to see the school, learn what is available and have any questions answered. The school's website is also a great source for information, [www.stmarysschoolgreenville.org](http://www.stmarysschoolgreenville.org).