

## Teacher Spotlight – Doug Beck, Grade 6 Religion, Social Studies, English



Meet Mr. Doug Beck, who is in his 3rd year at Newman Catholic Middle School. Newman's small class sizes drew him to teach here, in addition to the ability to develop creative lesson plans for his students; as a scoutmaster, he decided a teaching career would be another way for him to work with children to help them grow. Additionally, his communication teacher taught him that learning was hard work, but it could also be fun. Like many teachers, he is rewarded most in seeing his students learn. He remembered one incident in particular when he was able to help a student who felt he was unable to learn. As they worked together, Mr. Beck discovered the inability stemmed from a lack of organization and helped the student develop those skills. As a result the student was successful and

grew in confidence. Mr. Beck admits that there are some challenges to teaching, and worries that so few people are choosing to become educators, often due to the high level of education required and the relatively low pay. He hopes that in the future, the path to teaching is accessible to more people so that the profession will thrive.

One of his favorite units involves "a project where students make a physical, 3D map of Mexico, the Caribbean or South America. It is displayed in the school hallway." Mr. Beck makes use of current educational technology; when asked what his "must-have" item for teaching is, he said, "My SMART Board. I can use this for lessons, videos and with my document camera." When he is not teaching, developing hands on projects, attending faculty meetings, or giving feedback on student work, Mr. Beck serves as a Scoutmaster supervising fishing, hiking, camping, and canoeing trips as well as other outdoor activities. He is also "into" fitness and watching NFL football. Thank you, Mr. Beck for all you do for our students and their families!

