

Catholic Schools Department hires STREAM coordinator

The Department of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Buffalo has hired a part-time coordinator of the new initiative called STREAM.

Jean Comer, a teacher at St. Gregory's School in Williamsville, will implement the program that is comprised of science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Comer is no stranger to the Diocese of Buffalo. She has been the program coordinator for enrichment at St. Gregory the Great School since 2007, was the chair of the school's advisory council, and served as an area chairperson during the diocesan strategic planning process called "Journey in Faith and Grace."

Based on the national movement called STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), STREAM encapsulates the Catholic schools' holistic approach to education with the inclusion of religion and the arts.

Comer's responsibilities will include the selection of 10 pilot schools for the 2014-15 school year, the training of teachers and administrators,



Jean Comer

the development of curriculum models, making community connections, and putting together a

"STREAM Team," that

will help to create STREAM programs in the rest of the schools after the pilot program.

"We hope to get five-year-olds to 13-year-olds really excited about STREAM, especially since we know that they can do more than we can imagine," Comer said. "I look forward to working with our teachers to help them to develop project-based learning that crosses curricular lines so that teaching and learning are more integrated. Twenty-first century learners will demand a new approach to learning, and I know our teachers are attuned to that."

Comer will attend an engineering conference in Orlando, and a STREAM conference at the University of Dayton this June.