

2021-2022 H. William Christ Educator Prize Winner

Erika Rath



Erika Rath is the Director of Student Services, Residence Life and Grade 12 program as well as the Personal Development teacher for students in grades 7-11 at The Sacred Heart School of Montreal (SHSM). Since starting at Sacred Heart in 2012, Erika has had numerous roles including English teacher, Student Life Coordinator, and Interim Director of Academics.

In her role as the Director of Student Services, Erika oversees all of student life, assemblies, extra-curricular activities, fundraisers, student council, and more! Erika also teaches a unique class called PD (Personal Development). This class includes topics such as executive functioning, smooth transitions to high school, body image, women's health, decision making, post-secondary guidance, and more. Erika works hard to bring in speakers, workshops, and presentations that will inspire, educate, and help her students develop and grow. Erika is currently overseeing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and hopes to encourage new projects and cross-curricular activities throughout the entire school. Erika is the proud recipient of the 2021 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Outside of the classroom, Erika is involved in many school events and activities including coaching the tennis team, assisting in the athletics department as needed, organizing school trips, sitting on the City House Foundation, helping with events such as the gala and golf tournament, and sitting on non-school boards related to education and mental health.

Erika has a Bachelor of Arts in Human Relations from Concordia University, a Teaching English as a Second Language Certificate (TESL) from Concordia University, a Masters in Educational Psychology from McGill University, and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto. Erika considers herself to be a lifelong learner and has pursued numerous professional development opportunities such as obtaining a certificate in Human Resources from Simon Fraser University, completing the CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) Leadership Institute, engaging in additional qualification courses in career and guidance at Queens University, and participating in many NCGS webinars and workshops. This June, Erika will be presenting a breakout session at NCGS's Global Forum on Girls' Education III with a colleague from Sacred Heart New York called "Flawsome." This workshop will focus on how to create engaging and meaningful discussions about body image and self-confidence in schools.