



Meet Dr. Allyson Kozak



Dr. Allyson Kozak, who started at Magnificat last March, teaches Introductory Chemistry and AP Chemistry. Prior to teaching here, Dr. Kozak managed the chemistry and toxicology labs for Lake Hospitals in Lake County, Ohio. She has also worked in renewable energy and medical research, and taught Chemistry at Ohio University for eight years—both in the college of arts and sciences and in the business school.

Dr. Kozak graduated from the College of Wooster with a bachelor's in Chemistry, and then attended Ohio University where she received her MBA in Finance. She then worked at OU in the university's financial offices before earning her Ph.D. in Chemistry from OU. During her Ph.D. work, Dr. Kozak created an organ preservation solution for hearts that allows for extended storage time in between transplants, allowing viable organs to be matched and transported to the recipient.

When she isn't teaching Chemistry, Dr. Kozak is thinking of new ways to get involved with the Magnificat Community.

"I love completely immersing myself in all that Magnificat has to offer—there are so many amazing opportunities! I am revitalizing Chemistry Club (we are now a national chapter of Chemistry Club, registered with the American Chemical Society), and I plan to start a Beekeeping Club in the spring. I am also tossing around some ideas to create a student research program in-house," says Dr. Kozak. "I also went on the pilgrimage to see the Pope with students, and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life!"

When asked why she likes working at Magnificat, Dr. Kozak says it's because of the students, teachers and staff. She enjoys having the opportunity to teach science and get people excited about Chemistry every day. She says she also learns from her students, and every day learns something new from her co-workers, as well.

"I am inspired every single day by the dedication, energy and the love of people like Sister Helen Jean and Moira Clark. They make me want to be a better person—and make me care more about everything I do—every single day, and I have never experienced such sources of inspiration in my life!"

Dr. Kozak has taken that inspiration and created what she calls a "safe haven" in her classroom where students feel comfortable being themselves, free of judgment.

"When people feel safe and supported, they are more apt to open their minds to learn new things, question, think critically and make connections, and understand the inter-connectedness of all academic disciplines."

Dr. Kozak believes the Magnificat philosophy on holistic education, lifelong learning and leading a faith-filled life are all essential.

"Magnificat's dedication to holistic education is what attracted me to work here. I 100% believe in a holistic education and foster the importance of balance in every aspect of the student's life. I don't expect all of my students to become chemists when they grow up (but wouldn't that be nice!), but I do expose my students to as much of the real world of chemistry as I can, and link all class work to real world problems and ideas, which makes students see the connections between what we are learning in class and the importance of understanding these basic chemical principles in order to solve real world problems. This connection shows students how science is related to being a responsible citizen, the importance of standing up for social justice, and caring for the people and environment."

When she isn't teaching Chemistry or engaging her students, Dr. Kozak is finding new ways to interact with all parts of the Magnificat Community. She and Mrs. Judy Collins, Art teacher, are working on the chemistry behind glazes and specialized metals. Dr. Kozak is also passionate about sharing her beekeeping hobby with Magnificat.

"The Magnificat Community has completely embraced my beekeeping hobby! The Graphic Design class is working on designing a label for my honey, and the Metals class is working on a bee-themed piece of jewelry. I love talking about beekeeping with my students and co-workers, and spreading the word about the plight of the honeybee. The community has been so supportive and welcoming toward me; I could not ask for more!"

You can send Dr. Kozak a personal message at akozak@maghs.org, or make a [secure, online gift](#) in her honor.