

Crystal Blahnik was born in Napa, CA and raised by her parents who were avid adventurers. Living in Rota, Spain for six years while growing up, she had the chance to travel through Southwestern Europe and has vivid memories of visiting Fatima, Portugal. Today, Mrs. Blahnik's extended family resides on the central coast of California. While everyone in her family is in a helping field of some kind, the family business that ties everyone together is their vineyard and winery in Paso Robles, CA.

Crystal received her undergraduate degree from Trinity College of Vermont in 1996. She double majored in English and Writing/Publishing Communications. In 2007, she earned her MA in Catholic Educational Leadership (Private School Administration) from the University of San Francisco's renowned ICEL (Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership) program. The summers she spent in San Francisco earning her degree are some of her fondest memories.

Upon graduation from college in 1996, Crystal worked as a 6th, 7th & 8th Grade teacher for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School on the island of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

While at Mount Carmel School, Crystal was fortunate enough to develop her teaching craft as a middle school language arts teacher, as well as contribute to the many aspects of the Catholic school environment. During the nine years she worked there she served the community as English Department Chair, Academic Advisor and Vice Principal for Curriculum and Instruction. She says that one of her greatest accomplishments was co-chairing school's WRISA Self-Study Accreditation process and serving on and leading WRISA visiting teams in Saipan, Guam and Hawaii. Mount Carmel School is a K-12th grade school which has served nearly 700 students at its height in 1999 and 2000.

While at Mount Carmel School, Crystal met her husband of 21 years, Todd Blahnik, and married him at Mission San Miguel in San Miguel, CA in 1998. Todd is a graduate of St. Norbert College and was raised in Fish Creek, WI. The

couple left the Mariana Islands in 2005 to begin life state-side in Austin, TX. While in Texas, Crystal worked at St. Helen Catholic School as a Language Arts teacher and Development Director for three years and then took over leadership at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic School in Granger, TX for two years. In 2011 Crystal had the opportunity to serve as assistant principal for San Juan Diego Catholic High School, a Cristo Rey model school in Austin, TX, from 2011 - 2014. In the summer of 2014, the couple and their children moved to Green Bay, WI to be closer to Todd's aging parents.

Todd currently serves as the superintendent for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Green Bay. Together, Todd and Crystal have four children. Maria (17), Lily (15), AJ (11) and Clara (6). Their three youngest children have been attending St. Bernard School since Crystal became principal in 2014. On a personal note, Mrs. Blahnik enjoys being outside in nature and tent camping with her husband, children and dog. She loves to read historical fiction and classic literature and enjoys studying Asian, African and Latin American cultures. She is a deeply faith filled person who has dedicated her life to the will of God.

In the time that Mrs. Blahnik has been the principal at St. Bernard School, the school has gone from a low of 407 students in 2015 to a high of 506 in 2019. She is passionate about Catholic education and the St. Bernard School community and looks forward to continuing the good reputation that the school has had in the community for the last 60+ years.