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## **Peace music director recognized with Archdiocesan Heart of the School**

First-year Queen of Peace High School Music Director Nicole Lapwing has been recognized with the Archdiocese of Chicago's Heart of the School award.

Ms. Lapwing joined the Peace staff in 2008-09 after working in the Chicago Public System for one year. During her short tenure at Peace, she has moved the music department forward, reintroducing a music honor society TRI-M and planning a spring break music trip to New York City.

She is the eighth Peace faculty/staff member to be named as an Archdiocesan Heart of the School winner since 1994.

The daughter of musically inclined parents, Ms. Lapwing was drawn to Peace because the educators' philosophy is to empower young women.

"Peace truly does offer girls a strong education of the Catholic faith, peace, justice, truth, compassion and service. I found these goals are similar to my own, and I knew I was in the right place, working toward the right goal," she said. "I think it's great that girls can express themselves and I can express myself, too."

Every day she brings to the music room her passion for all forms of music. She is hopeful that passion inspires her students to pursue whatever inspires them, she said.

Her teaching experiences have taken her to Montego Bay, Jamaica, and Australia.

Ms. Lapwing graduated from Elmhurst College in 2007 with a bachelor's in music education and intercultural studies. Currently, she is working on earning her master's in

vocal music education with a concentration in ethnomusicology at Vander Cook College  
of Music.

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