

St Thomas Comets- *Meet our Inspiring Leaders*

Third Grade Teacher- Mrs. Jan Crim

Educational Background: BS in Elementary Education with emphasis in Language Arts from Western Illinois University; 30 years teaching experience with the last 20 years teaching at a Catholic school. I have taught 17 years at St. Thomas School.

Why I teach in a Catholic School: I believe that it is divine intervention that I teach at a Catholic school. Some of you may remember Mrs. Sarah Sweet, our school advisor for many years. I met Mrs. Sweet while teaching in the Dunlap School District. I went on to teach at a private school and then Dist. 150. Unfortunately, I was not happy teaching at these schools. In 2001, I ran into Mrs. Sweet at the Atlanta airport on our way to Disney World. She recommended that I send her my resume, and she would give it to the principal of St. Thomas. At that time, Mrs. Ann Ribando was the principal. About a month later, I interviewed with Mrs. Ribando and was offered the kindergarten teacher position. I fell in love with St. Thomas School and the Christian community here. In 2016, my husband's job took us to Wilmington, NC. I knew immediately that I wanted to continue to teach in a Catholic school and taught at St. Mark Catholic School for three years in Kindergarten. Thankfully, God has blessed me with my return to St. Thomas and this wonderful community again.

Who inspires you: My sister, Julie Selburg, inspires me as a teacher and a person. She is smart, sweet, and outgoing. Julie is the best teacher I've ever met, and I strive to be just like her.



Hobbies/Interests: Musical Theater~ My latest show was Mamma Mia at Peoria Players Theater. I enjoy being outdoors and spending time with my family. My husband and I are 2nd degree blackbelts in Taekwondo.

My favorite teacher was: Mr. Gary Hutton was my favorite teacher growing up in the Dunlap School District. He was my 7th and 8th grade English teacher. He cared for each and every student in his class and held high expectations for his students. Mr. Hutton later became my mentor teacher when I came back to Dunlap to teach 7th grade Language Arts.

Dream meal: Anything that I don't have to cook. :)

Outside of school: I love hanging out with my husband and our dog, Nala. We also enjoy activities with our son, Calen, and our daughter-in-law, Kate. As some of you might know, Kate Crim is our wonderful 2nd grade teacher. I love performing at Peoria Players Theater and Corn Stock Theater.