

St Thomas Comets- *Meet our Inspiring Leaders*

Pre-K Teacher- Miss Sarah Schertz

Educational Background: I graduated from St. Mary's in Metamora and Metamora Township High School. I studied for 2 years at Illinois Central College and earned my associates degree in Education. I then transferred to New York University and earned my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education with a minor in English. I hold an Illinois Type 04 Teacher License for Early Childhood Education (Birth-3rd Grade).

Why I teach in a Catholic School: I taught Kindergarten for 9 years at Methodist Family Child Care Center (MFCCC). In 2018, I took over as the Director of MFCCC. Though I enjoyed my position as the director and learned so much in the role, I found myself missing the classroom and the opportunity to make a daily impact in the lives of children.

I attended Catholic School at St. Mary's in Metamora from Kindergarten to 8th Grade. I enjoyed and valued my experience in Catholic education and was drawn back to it as a teacher.

I truly believe that each person is unique and made in God's image and likeness. It is important to me to teach children to love and accept themselves and to love and accept others and to treat themselves and others with respect, empathy, grace, understanding, kindness and LOVE as Jesus would.

Who inspires you: My grandmother, Ruby Bodtke, inspires me. She faced many challenges and setbacks in her youth and was fiercely independent. She found the Catholic faith as an adult and was devout in her faith. She married and raised 3 children who in turn had 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She was always involved in our lives, giving of her time, resources, advice and love to each of us. She was always there pushing me forward in all my endeavors and celebrating all my accomplishments.

Though she is gone now, she still is the voice in my head pushing me forward and reassuring me I am doing the right thing.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy going to musicals, painting pottery/wood signs, going to Cubs games, traveling, reading, movies/TV, spending time with family and my 10 nieces and nephews and I am a history nerd.

Dream meal: Mac and Cheese or My mother's chicken and rice recipe with salad, cooked carrots and Hawaiian Rolls. Yum!



My favorite teacher was: I have been blessed to have many wonderful teachers throughout my life. I loved my 7th Grade teacher, Mrs. Adams. She was fun, funny, kind and helped me succeed when I didn't believe in my own abilities.

Kathy Culbertson wasn't my teacher in school, but she was the teacher I worked with when I volunteered in junior high and high school at MFCCC and her classroom was always fun and engaging and filled with endless learning opportunities for even the youngest children. She made me want to be a teacher and work with very young children.

Maris Krasnow was one of my professors at NYU who helped me to grow as a teacher and instilled in me the importance of looking at each child as an individual and meeting them where they are.

Tonya McClain was my teacher when I attended MFCCC as a young child and she set an example for me many years later, as a coworker, in how to speak to and relate to young children. She has the innate ability to make each and every child feel like they are her absolute favorite child and makes them each feel special and loved every time she sees them.

Outside of school I: enjoy spending downtime with family and friends. My mom and I volunteer with The Cats of Woodford County cat rescue, fostering cats and kittens and helping to find them homes. I enjoy going to baseball games, museums, traveling with friends and hanging out with my dog, Sam and my two cats, Betty and Twinkie.