

# Comet Alumni Spotlight

## Molly Alexander Fricano Class of 2001



**Educational Background:** I attended St. Thomas Grade School, along with my four sisters and two brothers, and I graduated from there in 2001. I then went on to attend and graduate in the top five at Peoria Notre Dame High School in 2005. In 2009, I graduated top of my class at Bradley University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

**Recent Achievements:** I am celebrating my 15th year of bedside nursing as a labor and delivery nurse at OSF St. Francis Medical Center! I have also been a part of the OB Life Flight program in the past which has contributed significantly to my nursing career, and I have helped deliver hundreds of babies into this world!

**Family:** I am one of seven Alexander children who attended STS over the course of MANY years! I met my husband Nick while at PND (we've been together over 20 years), and we were married in 2011. We still live in Peoria and have had four children together, three girls and one boy who attend St. Philomena School. We also have two cats- Meatball and Cheeseburger (no I did not in fact pick out those names)! Most of our families live nearby, including my sister who has children at St. Thomas!

**Favorite Experience as a St. Thomas Comet:** I can still close my eyes and feel like I'm out in the back of the school playing on the playground or running around the old parking lot, even sitting in the old Church- I loved those stained glass windows! Playing soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and volleyball and cheering when I was older kept me busy practically year round. Walking through the hallways of St. Thomas nowadays brings back memories of school, lunch, and activities galore. One of my most favorite memories at STS was the second grade preparation day when we got to make the bread, and eat it! Such a special time. The classes, the teachers, and the students are all still so vivid in my mind from those early elementary days.

**St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:** I feel like you can't just name one teacher who made a big impact while attending St. Thomas! I truly loved and adored them all, even the resource teachers, cafeteria ladies, the custodial staff, and the principal. The ones who stuck out the most and helped mold me into the person I still am today were Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Harn, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Crawford, and Mrs. O'Toole (I'm sure I'm forgetting others in there too)! I remember you all and thank you for all you did for me over the years.

**Piece of advice for current Comets:** Never give up on your dreams- you can do anything you set your mind to if you stay brave enough, study enough, and work hard enough. Be kind, be honest, be grateful, and be proud of who you are! Love God and love yourself and make sure to have fun and laugh a lot- a smile for yourself or for another does wonders to the soul!

