

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Amanda Burek Leach Class of 2000



Educational Background: Attended St. Thomas Kindergarten through 8th grade, Attended high school at Peoria Notre Dame, Went to Methodist College of Nursing to complete my BSN

Family: I am the oldest of 4 kids. My parents live in Brimfield, IL (George and Connie Burek). My brother Nick Burek and his wife MaryBeth live in Seattle, WA and have a son Peter (2). My sister Ali and her husband Dan live in Kansas City, MO and have 2 daughters Kelly (3) and Chole (1). My sister Lexi and her husband Trevor live in Peoria, IL with their daughter Olivia (3) and son Cooper (1). I have been married to my husband Nate since 2010. We currently live in Peoria, IL. My husband works for Rivian and I work at The Couri Center as a Registered Nurse and PRN at Carle Methodist Labor and Delivery. We have a son Jordi who is currently a Kindergarten at St. Thomas in Mrs. Devore's Class and we are expecting our second child in March 2025!

Favorite Experience at St. Thomas: I have so many great memories from my years at St. Thomas that it would be hard to choose just one. I loved playing soccer and basketball along with being a cheerleader. My closest friend to this day is Tara who attended St. Thomas with me Kindergarten through 8th grade. I remember the school dances, Catholic schools weeks, fine arts days, and the sacraments we all went through together. St. Thomas is a school I looked forward to sending my own children to someday.

Favorite Teacher at St. Thomas: Choosing one of my teachers at St. Thomas would be too difficult because they were all very impactful on my life in so many different ways. The teachers at St. Thomas were some of the most caring and genuine group of people I have ever met in my life. You were like family to them. I still see many of my old St. Thomas teachers to this day and they all continue to recognize me.

Piece of Advice: St. Thomas is one of the best communities of individuals from the school to the parish. Everyone cares about you as the person. Enjoy your time there because whether you realize it or not these days and the people there will make a lasting impact on your life going forward. Life goes so fast. Slow down and enjoy the moments! Pursue your dreams and make sure to always make St. Thomas a part of your life going forward!

