

# Comet Alumni Spotlight

## Kristen Machetti Shekleton Class of 1998



**Educational Background:** I graduated from Peoria Notre Dame High School in 2002. I attended Purdue University and graduated with a BS in Family and Consumer Science Education.

**Recent Achievements :** After college I spent 8 years as a high school teacher preparing Juniors and Seniors for financial success in the real world. I took time off when my kids were born, and now teach preschool part-time. Most weeks, organizing a car pool and getting everyone to all of their activities feels like a huge achievement :)

**Family:** My husband Mark and I live in Zionsville, IN. We have three children – Molly (11), Mitch (9), and Andrew (7). Our church does not have a grade school, so they attend Religious Education every Sunday. Our weekends are spent at swim meets, baseball fields and basketball courts.

**St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:** I was lucky to have many wonderful teachers! Miss Hertz made learning fun with math games and happy grams. Mrs. Bahnson was an exciting teacher who made me feel seen and Mrs. Crawmer was patient and understanding.

### **Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet:**

I have such fond memories of my Catholic education! It was special to grow up in a tight-knit community that I felt like really knew and supported me at everything... plays, soccer/basketball games, field trips, speech competitions, and Girl Scouts. First Communion and all-school masses are memories that I truly treasure.

**Piece of advice for current Comets:** I am constantly learning, but here are a few things I say frequently to my kids. First, thank everyone, always! Show appreciation and gratitude through thank you notes and words to coaches, teachers, parents and anyone who does anything for you throughout the day. Doing this will brighten your day, too! Second, you can't control other people. You can only control yourself and your reactions. If something is happening that you don't like, make adjustments instead of expecting everyone to change for you. And lastly, be kind. There is no reason not to be! People will respect you more if you say something complimentary or thoughtful as opposed to something insulting.

