

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Nick Hafner Class of 2013



Educational Background: St Thomas (PK-8), Peoria Notre Dame (9-12), University of Illinois (BS) & Eastern Illinois University (MS & SSP)

Recent Achievements: School Psychologist at Peoria Public Schools, Member of the National Association of School Psychologists, and Member of the Peoria Public Schools Special Education Leadership Team

Family: John Hafner, Michele Hafner, Katie Hafner, Jack Hafner, and Ben Hafner



Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet: Field trips to Shedd Aquarium & Six Flags

St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you: Stefanie Crawford was someone who supported me academically and personally. She made sure I felt welcome in her class and pushed me academically to make meaningful gains. I felt like I had a home in her classroom and felt safe coming to her with things going on at school and at home. She made St. Thomas feel like a very welcoming and supportive environment. I try to model my own professional and personal life in that same way by making students and people feel safe and supported regardless of their academic, behavioral, or functional levels.

Piece of advice for current Comets: Your struggles may shape you, but they never take away your ability to choose to be a good person. Focus on building meaningful relationships and making people feel seen and heard. People may not remember what you did for them, but they will always remember the way you made them feel. Choosing to live your life positively impacting others will always be more meaningful than living only for yourself.