

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Matthew McLaughlin Class of 2007



Educational Background: I went to St. Thomas from Kindergarten through 8th Grade, attended and graduated from Richwoods High School, and graduated from Bradley University with a Master's Degree in Accounting.

Recent Achievements: I am a Certified Public Account (CPA) licensed in Minnesota, where I live with my family. I am a tax manager at a firm called Enestvedt & Christensen (pronounced N-Est-Vet and Christian-sen) where I do tax planning and preparation for individuals and businesses. Fun fact: in eighth grade, we had to shadow a local person in our community to learn what they do on a day-to-day basis. I didn't know who to choose, so I chose my dad's accountant, Joe Romolo (who stills owns his firm in Peoria!). I also chose my Confirmation saint, St. Matthew, on the basis he shared my name (with no other thought put behind that choice either). Turns out he's the patron saint of accountants. Though I didn't have a plan, God did, to say the least.

Family: I live in Minneapolis with my wife Samantha and my two kids, Riley (3) and Alcuin (1). We've been married since 2021. Samantha stays at home with the kiddos and is currently battling (and beating) Stage 3C breast cancer. I'm the oldest of 3 kids, all of whom went to St. Thomas K-8 - my sister is Kelly McLaughlin (class of 2009, still lives in Peoria) and my brother is Bryan McLaughlin (class of 2012 who lives in Tampa, Florida). My parents are Kevin McLaughlin and Janet Boundy, both of whom are Peoria-based.

Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet: Too many to count. From 6-8th grade basketball, to being in the play "When in Rome" in 7th grade (picture related), to goofing off with friends in class, at recess and in the hall, to Fun Fish Fridays/Tony's Pizza, Declamations, Geography Bee and Spelling Bee (where I got out in the first round because I misspelled "attorney"), Scholastic Book fairs, computer lab with Mrs. Schaffnit... it's hard to say just one. The school, church and community always felt like a second home.

St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:

Again, far too many to count, but the one that comes to mind is Mrs. Miller (Marge Miller) in 5th grade. She was a tough lady with big personality and a heart of absolute gold, who absolutely knew how to handle troublemakers like myself. Others include Fr. Watson, Sr. Rachel (who was actually my neighbor for a while), Sr. Margaret, Mrs. Mueller (7th grade), Mrs. Harn (3rd grade), Mrs. Schlicksup (1st grade), Mrs. Moggio (Kindergarten) and Mrs. Bentley (Principal).

Piece of advice for current Comets: You're in a great community that'll positively impact you for the rest of your life. Enjoy the moment, seize every opportunity you have at STS, and most importantly, keep the Faith!

