



Lori Smithe

Social Worker

Mrs. Smithe came to St. Thomas in 2014. She spent two years working as the 4 year-old preschool aide and introduced a Character Education Program to students in Preschool-8th grade. She is now our part-time School Social Worker, and also spends time at St. Raymond in Mt. Prospect.

Lori has a BA in Psychology and Spanish from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN and a Masters in Social Work from Loyola University. She is certified as an Illinois Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She spent 4 years working at Carmel Catholic High School as a guidance counselor, School Social Worker and Director of Social Services.

About the Students

"It is my privilege to work with all grade levels. I truly enjoy getting to know the kids and it is so rewarding to watch them grow from year to year."

On St. Thomas of Villanova

"St. Thomas of Villanova has a strong academic program but it certainly doesn't stop there. I believe that administrators and teachers are working closely with parents to develop students, not only academically but also spiritually and socially/emotionally. The values that these students are learning today will help them tomorrow."

"I believe in working together with parents, teachers, and administrators to empower all students to navigate the changes and challenges in their lives, especially those that may interfere with their learning. My goal is to teach children various life skills that will help them to be successful in the classroom and to develop positive coping skills and positive interactions with their peers. I may also work with children in small groups or individually to help them gain these important life skills and to provide social and emotional support."

Special Units

- Social-Emotional Learning/Virtue Building Units Including:
 - Kindness
 - Temperance
 - Humility
 - Diligence
 - Honesty
 - Patience
 - Charity
- Classroom sessions vary but focus on building Christian morals and values and important life skills
- Small Group Sessions
- Short-term Individual Counseling
- Community Referrals

Projects Related to Our Faith

"I begin each classroom session with a prayer. And, while we are learning about how to develop strong character in a modern-day world, I believe it is important to take a look at our history and our faith in terms of how we respect ourselves and how we treat those around us. When applicable, we read and discuss what Jesus might do."