



## **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 work with children in classrooms, small groups, or individually to help them gain these important life skills and to provide social and emotional support."***

### **Special Units**

- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
  - Goal 1:** Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success.
  - Goal 2:** Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
  - Goal 3:** Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.
- Classroom sessions
- Small group sessions: "Lunch Bunch"
- Short-term individual counseling
- Community referrals and collaborations
- Service projects such as a scarf-making party with Rosie from the Coming up Rosies foundation.

### **Projects Related to Our Faith**

"While we are learning about how to develop strong character in a modern-day world, 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, essentially asking the question 'What would Jesus do?' Many of my lessons seek to build a foundation of strong Christian morals and values such as Kindness, Patience, Respect, Charity, etc."