



## **Leanne Kotlarz**

### **Preschool 4**

Ms. Kotlarz is new to St. Thomas in 2018. She earned a BA in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University Chicago and was the Preschool Director for Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook, IL for seven years prior to coming to St. Thomas.

#### **About the Students**

“As a Pre-K teacher, I have the incredible opportunity to watch my students undergo an amazing transformation. The social and academic growth in preschool is unlike any other grade. Everything is new and exciting and I share in the excitement every year! I love learning through play and watching concepts click in my students’ minds. Preschool is an amazing time to be a kid and I love joining my class on their journey to Kindergarten!”

#### **On St. Thomas of Villanova**

“I love teaching at St. Thomas because we provide a learning community where students thrive socially, progress academically and grow spiritually while building a strong moral character. The school community feels like a family and we celebrate the success and achievements of students and teachers alike.”



*“I believe the best kind of learning is done through play!”*

*My teaching style is a mix of play-based learning and strong academic content. In my classroom, you will see a print-rich environment with plenty of hands-on learning opportunities which support academic success while growing our faith in Jesus Christ.”*

#### **Special Units and Projects**

- Thanksgiving Feast
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Preschool Graduation

#### **Field Trips (vary by year)**

- Pumpkin Farm

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

- Weekly Bible Stories and the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas Time

#### **In-House Guests**

- Fire Department
- Library Storytime Speakers
- Musical Guests

#### **All School Activities**

- Track-A-Thon
- Pep Rally
- Advent Craft
- Santa Visit
- Santa Sale
- St. Joseph Table
- Grandparents Day