



ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*Right before graduation, 8th graders Addie Buffaloe and Frannie Miller sat down with two St. Louis School alum who are now faculty at St. Louis School and Preschool! **Judy Goebel Thomas (STL'79)** is the 1st Grade Instructional Assistant and **Bridget Faherty Flaaen (STL'98)** teaches the Preschool 4's Zebra class. Both are also parents of St. Louis School alumni and current students. Each took time to share their memories from their time as students at St. Louis and how it compares to the school today. Read on to learn more, and let us know about YOUR St. Louis School memories!*

What was St. Louis School like when you were a student here?

Judy Goebel Thomas (JGT): We had nuns as teachers. They lived in a convent that was located where the current middle school is. We carried our stuff in brown paper bags instead of backpacks. We didn't have a gym (McClunn Hall wasn't built, yet) so we had PE in the cafeteria (which was called the multi-Purpose Room) or out in the parking lot. The PE uniform hasn't changed much, other than the gray shirt, nor have the K-4 girls' jumpers. There was also no playground. We also had different desks. The chair was attached to the desk. You had to lift up the top of the desk to get your school stuff. There wasn't an opening in the back like the ones we have now.

Bridget Faherty Flaaen (BFF): I started going to St. Louis in 1989, and I graduated in 1998. Kindergarten was ½-day. I got to stay and eat lunch in the cafeteria because my mom worked at the school (Mrs. Claudia Faherty). What is now the pre-school is where my kindergarten classroom was. Mrs. Czapiewski was my 3rd grade teacher – it was her second year of teaching at St. Louis (editors note: Mrs. Czapiewski still teaches Middle School Literature at St. Louis!). We only had hot lunch once a week – on Wednesdays. There was a hot-dog day, and we also got to order McDonald's hamburgers or cheeseburgers.

What was faith formation like at St. Louis School?

JGT: We had Liturgical Music practice each week to practice the songs we sang at Mass. We also had a Christmas play instead of Lesson and Carols. The Christmas play was huge. We started

practicing for it around Halloween. We didn't do Living Stations, but we did do something like May Crowning. They picked the holiest girl, and she dressed up like Mary.

BFF: The whole school went to Mass together on the first Friday of each month and then upper-hall and lower-hall alternated going to Mass on Friday every other week. The Mass buddies were 8th grade and kindergarten. We started preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the 7th grade and received the Sacrament in the 8th grade. When I was in the 8th grade, I was Mary when my class did Living Stations.

What activities were you involved in as a student?

JGT: I was Student Council Secretary. We had dances once a month. I did Shakespeare at Paul VI. I made it to the Spelling Bee once and got out on the word "spaghetti." For sports, we had a gymnastics team, baseball, softball and a cheerleading competition. The Mount Vernon ice skating rink was the "big hangout" place to go on Friday nights.

BFF: I was Student Council President in the 8th grade, and Secretary in the 7th grade. We didn't have any school dances, but we had a big food drive. I played CYO basketball and ran track. There was only 1 track meet per year.

How have things changed since you were a student at St. Louis?

JGT: There were school buses that picked up kids to bring them to school and bring them home in the afternoon. We had a spring fair instead of in the fall.

BFF: The space has really changed. When I was a student here there was no music room and there was no middle school. We didn't have a separate art class. There are way more resources now. There is technology and the type of learning and projects have changed.

JGT & BFF: We had to cover our textbooks with brown paper bags and our workbooks with contact paper. Instead of Virtue Awards, there was a Student of the Month. We didn't have themes or slogans for each year. The only ice cream that was available to buy was just chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry cups that came with the little wooden spoon, and you had to buy milk tickets.

What was your favorite thing about St. Louis "then" and what is your favorite thing "now"?

BFF: My favorite thing "then" was the feeling of family and community here. Everybody knew my name and I felt deeply cared for. My favorite thing "now" is the same as "then" but from a parent-perspective. I know that my kids are getting the same love that I received.