

ALUMNI NOTES

We are asking our alumni to tell us what they are doing now and what they loved about SPPS. We would appreciate it, if you would ask your children who are in the working world to write answers to the three questions in bold below. Thomas graciously agreed to be first (never an easy thing) 😊

THOMAS HOLMAN

Education: Thomas spent eight years at SPPS, and graduated from GHS in 2002 as the Salutatorian. He earned a BS in Civil Engineering at Boise State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

What I do: “As a civil engineer, my options were to choose between geotechnical, civil, environmental, traffic, or structural disciplines. Having been raised on a farm working on equipment, structural best suited me. I am currently, and have been for 9 years, employed at DCI engineers in Spokane, WA. As a structural engineer I work to put the “bones” in buildings and other structures to make them stand up. This consists of analyzing elements such as beams, columns, and walls to withstand weight due to gravity, loading from people, snow on the roof, wind blowing, and earthquakes. Local projects I have designed include the **SPPS gym expansion** and in Spokane, the 11 story Rockwood retirement building and Convention Center expansion. Along with local construction, I’ve worked on projects along the west coast and have designed mining equipment in Africa, Peru, and Indonesia.”

What I appreciated most about SPPS: “The environment! Being raised on a small farm on the breaks of the Salmon without neighbors close by, Saints Peter and Paul’s small class size and one on one contact with teachers was right up my ally. After high school I realized this small school experience was beneficial because it was not only a comfortable environment for me, but it also helped teach life-long lessons of respect, good study habits, and faith in God.”

“Since Christianity was a common ground among students, it seemed to naturally encourage respect in the classroom. God was a part of common conversation and Jesus was a role model. Some may consider this sheltered, but at an age when I was so easily influenced, it helped solidify the lessons my parents were consistently teaching at home. Saints Peter and Paul helped provide a platform on which my parents were able to build, resulting in what I feel is solid foundation in the Catholic faith.”