

CATHERINE (Klem) HOPF

From Gardening to the Kitchen: The Story of a Cook

Graduate: Class of 1986 Occupation: Cook By Brittney Hopf, Spring, 2010

A member of the Forest Park Class of 1986, Catherine (Klem) Hopf, currently lives in St. Anthony, Indiana. When growing up in Bretzville, she helped her mom tend the garden and helped her dad take care of the goats and chickens.

In 1992, Catherine married Randall Hopf, a 1988 Jasper High school graduate. They have been married for seventeen years. They have three wonderful kids the youngest Bianca, who is two years and nine months. The middle child, Tiffany, is seventeen. The oldest is me, Brittany, and I am eighteen.

In high school, most of Catherine's memories are from when she participated in choir and participated in school plays and musicals. Because of her interest in plays, Catherine told her kids that they should participate as much as possible while they are in high school. Because of her participation in choir, both Tiffany and I have participated in choir also.

One of Catherine's highlights of her high school experience was being able to learn in a good school “where the teachers actually thought and cared about you as a real person.” She said another one of her highlights was “developing friendships that will last a lifetime.”

Catherine now works as a cook at The Waters, a nursing home in Jasper, Indiana. She has worked there for seven years so far. Before working there, she worked at The Waters' of Huntingburg for seven years. Convenient stores were her first jobs.

A day at work is as follows: she starts work at 5:00 a.m., and she makes breakfast for seventy residents. She serves breakfast at 7:00 a.m., and then washes dishes. At 10:30 a.m., she starts to make lunch for the residents. At 12:00 p.m. she serves lunch until about 12:30-1:00 p.m. At 1:00 p.m., she cleans up the kitchen and washes more dishes. Lastly, she does her preparation for the next day, and she takes out the trash before clocking out.

Some words of wisdom are, “Concentrate on your studies and be thankful for being at a great school.” She also says, “Enjoy every minute that you are in high school because four years of high school is a short period of time before you get out into the real world.”

Catherine's greatest achievement in her life is being a great mother to her three daughters. She says, "Without my three daughters, who knows where I would be now?"