

Michele Fiore grew up in Elmwood Park, graduated valedictorian from Elmwood Grade School in 1984, and graduated with honors from Elmwood Park High School in 1988 in the Top 10 for academics. Her academic excellence, along with a long list of extracurriculars and philanthropy, earned her a full-ride scholarship to Triton College, but her exposure to Triton actually began years before she became a full-time student there.

When Michele was in middle school, she was introduced to Dr. Eugene Schlabach, the head of the music department, and she began taking credited, private piano lessons at Triton, under his instruction, learning to play Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart and Scarlatti. Even as a pre-teen, Michele was invited to participate in the department's recitals which were held a few times a year at the Performing Arts Center. She recalls one year performing the Moonlight Sonata. Dr. Schlabach had her commit to memory even the most challenging third movement. What had seemed impossible to learn, through time and persistence, became obtainable. This is a lesson she has carried forward throughout her life.

Once a full time student at Triton, Michele pursued an associate of arts degree in journalism under the instruction of another one of her beloved instructors, Jackie Pledger-Skwerski. She also became editor-in-chief of the Fifth Avenue Journal, and worked part-time both at WRRG-AM, Triton TV and Elmwood Park Cable Television News.

Michele completed her education with a bachelor of arts degree at Northern Illinois University with a major in broadcast journalism and a minor in women's studies. That was in 1992. For the past 33 years, Michele has worked hard honing her craft, reporting and anchoring for both radio and TV news rooms. Her resume includes stations in Chicago, Milwaukee, Springfield, Illinois; and Decatur, Illinois. She has a passion for people which makes her work stand out. News cycles are relentless and the hours can be long and unstructured, but Michele balances this with ease. She is equally adept at crafting quick-hitting live shots, as well as weaving together long, emotionally-charged pieces.

In her present position at CBS58 News in Milwaukee, her enterprising story skills have landed her many stories you will only see on CBS58. She is good at developing and maintaining contact with sources. She produces accurate general assignment reports and exclusives on a hard nightly deadline, initiates compelling content for multiple platforms, contributes to the station's website and social media platforms, and interacts with producers, assignment editors and photographers on story updates, breaking news, and long-term projects. She has become proficient at editing on edius, canva and capcut. She also is a fill-in anchor, and a mentor to younger journalists at the station.

Michele's skills include excellent time management, a strong writing ability, solid news judgment, successfully navigates hard deadlines, ad-libs effortlessly, engages with the community and connects with viewers on multiple social platforms.

You may recall Michele's face and voice from the time she worked in Chicago for both WBBM-Newsradio and FOX32. She spent many years being mentored by the incredibly talented journalists of WBBM, starting her tenure there as a writer in 2001, and moving up the ranks to reporter and anchor. Her time at FOX32 came during the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and unrest following the death of George Floyd. Michele had a front row seat to what will likely be included in history text books of the future.

In the duration of Michele's career, she has also had a few brief stints outside of news, starting with project manager for Sound Targeting, Inc. out of Morton Grove, where they produced weekly, one-minute syndicated radio shows called, "A Minute for Kids," "60 Second Checkup" and "Rural Health Today." Reporter/Business Owner Christopher Michael attended national conferences for clients including the American Academy of Pediatrics and produced content for the shows. Michele's role was to introduce these pieces to Sound Targeting's radio affiliates around the country, maintain relationships with each, and log and track their usage with Excel Worksheets.

During Michele's time as public relations specialist for the Glenview Park District, she's proud to say this Chicago-area government entity earned top honors in multiple statewide competitions. The Glenview Park District has a wide array of venues including over 27 parks, an ice rink, farm, walking trails, field houses and so much more. Michele developed and executed PR strategies for these and was responsible for shaping and promoting activities offered to a diverse audience, plus generating press releases, attending park board meetings, managing all media interview requests and handling crisis communications. You'd be surprised to hear how cow deaths can shake things up! Her day-to-day focused on enhancing the park district's voice through online and offline channels.

In her time away from work, Michele is a devoted mother, sister, aunt and friend. She joined her daughter last year running their first 5k together. Michele enjoys gardening, walking, boating, tennis, pickle ball and still plays all her favorite composers on the piano including Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart and Scarlatti.