



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

September 16, 2019

Margaret Mary Term – Week IV



Mr. Creaser's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students beautifully recite *Four Things* by Henry Van Dyke at Monday Morning Assembly:

*Four things a man must learn to do  
If he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellow man sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely;  
To trust in God and Heaven securely.*

## ~ Events Calendar ~



Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

**October Lunch Orders Due**

Order forms will be sent out in a 'second page'

of this week's St. Thomas Newsletter, tomorrow, Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Fr. Gabriel Richard High School Open House**

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

**Headmaster's Coffee**

8:00 – 9:00 AM, Parish Hall

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

**No School**

Diocese of Lansing Teacher Professional Development Conference

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

**Parent Association Monthly Meeting**

6:00 PM -- Room 255

See attached minutes from the September meeting—  
Come join in the planning!

### ~ Attachments ~

Weekly Parent Schedule

Parent Association Activity Signup

Parent Handbook Signatory Page

Parent Background Check Release Form

Parent Association September Meeting Minutes

### ~ Noteworthy ~

#### From the Headmaster:

The health and happiness of a community is directly related to the quality of its communication. During these past two years we have sought to develop the frequency, utility and quality of our communication within our St. Thomas learning community. Our new website with calendar, classroom updates and assignments, our weekly newsletter, parent surveys, headmaster coffees, school stakeholder forum along with ongoing individual email and phone contacts, are hopefully providing the communication we need to keep us working closely together and feeling mutually supported. However, once we are *able* to communicate, the human *quality* of our relationships is what becomes most important. Communication ultimately builds relationships when it builds *trust*--communication creates the opportunity for trust, but doesn't guarantee it. What else is needed? Trust begins when we individually live for the sake of the other. When one knows that the other has their best interest in mind, trust can begin and deepen. To that end the following five commitments for increasing trust are proposed for our learning community at St. Thomas:

1. Connect with the other as a **PERSON** before judging their skillset and utility to me.
2. **CONTRIBUTE** to the other and to our common cause before I make any judgements about the other.
3. Strive for a **WIN-WIN** before I drive for the win-lose.
4. Recognize the **GOOD NEWS** in the other, even when I see bad news.

5. **TRUST** the other until they give me ample reason to do otherwise (and cut them plenty of slack because, just like me, they are not perfect.)

## Required Forms Due October 1<sup>st</sup> (Attached)

**Parent Association Activity Sign-Up**--We ask all parents to contribute to the vitality of our school community by supporting at least one of our scheduled activities for the school year ahead.

**Parent Background Release Form**--The Diocese of Lansing requires parents to provide a release form permitting an online background check. Any parent wishing to spend time in the classroom, drive and participate on field trips, participate in school day events must have a background release form on file.

**Parent Handbook Signatory Page Due**--Please review the St. Thomas Parent Handbook and sign with your student(s) the Agreement Form found on the back of your handbook or attached to this email. All parents and students are required to indicate their agreement in writing to the policies and procedures of the St. Thomas Parent Handbook in order to be enrolled at St. Thomas.

## florilegium

In medieval Latin a **florilegium** (plural **florilegia**) was a compilation of excerpts from other writings. The word is from the Latin *flos* (flower) and *legere* (to gather): literally a gathering of flowers, or collection of fine extracts from the body of a larger work.



## Florilegiums

Each student in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade has been provided a notebook—leather bound, with ribbon marker and pen holder, in which they will be regularly invited by their teacher to write down a quote, an experience, or an idea that struck them as meaningful or beautiful to them. This notebook will become a compendium of memories, thoughts, quotes, and images that were moments of meaning and beauty for each student. They will then be invited to recall these over time, possibly share them with their classmates and have the opportunity to keep these for future reference as they learn and mature as ‘a student of the good, the true and beautiful’ at St. Thomas.

## St. Thomas String Ensemble Survey ~ Last Opportunity

Join the St. Thomas String Ensemble with Mrs. Brittany Osman providing beginner, intermediate and advanced lesson in violin, viola and cello performance. Learn more by responding to Mrs. Osman’s google doc survey by which she will contact you with additional information tailored to the current training stage and needs of your child. **Visit by this Wednesday, September 18th: [St. Thomas School String Ensemble](#).**

## NWEA Fall Assessment Schedule

**Kindergarten & First Grade:** September 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade & 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** September 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>  
**6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** October 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Look for Page 2 to this week's newsletter tomorrow~!*

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[www.sta2.org/school](http://www.sta2.org/school)