



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*  
"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter  
August 24, 2020



## *The Queenship of Mary*



Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us~



Sisters Madeleine and Lucy Kennedy share a last hug before going to their classrooms on the first day of school~!  
Welcome back~!



Our first all school Mass of the 2020-2021 school year with Fr. Bill and Fr. Gerald presiding with 8<sup>th</sup> graders Michael Savarino and Francis Rutherford reading.

## ~ Events Calendar ~

View the complete *St. Thomas School Calendar* [here](#).



Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> *New Date~!*  
**Girls 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Practice Begins**

3:30 PM in the school parking lot  
Contact [Ms. Cullen](#) for more information

Friday – Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>  
**No School ~ Labor Day Break**

Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
**[Yearbook Orders Due](#)**

Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Little Flowers First Meeting**  
3:30 PM Parish Hall  
See attached flyer to learn more.  
Email [Emily Hanley](#) for questions/register.

## From the Headmaster

It was wonderful to see all our students back in class--at least what we could see(!), as well as our parents. Welcome back to school and thank you for your support of our efforts to bring our community back together for our children and their spiritual and academic growth here at St. Thomas.

A few reminders and clarifications:

- **Lunch service:** Hot lunch service will not be available until further notice. All students are to bring a lunch. Milk service will be reviewed for potential startup for September.
- **Lunch protocol:** To provide appropriate distancing, our lunch protocol has two lunch periods, one for K - 4 (11:00 - 11:25 AM) and the other for grades 5 - 8 (11:30-11:55 AM) with three students seated at each table. Two students are seated on one side of the table on the end seats, about 10 feet apart, with a third student on the other side in the middle, about 6 to 7 feet away from the other two. Students have assigned seats to allow them to go directly to their seat on entering the cafeteria. Students in the two lunch periods are not seated at the same locations. Students do not need to get up from their seat, they will be provided a table wipe cloth to clean their individual area. Students dispose of any trash when they leave the cafeteria in their spaced lines which we practiced today when they are dismissed from their tables. Students wear their mask at all times in transitioning to and from their seat on entering and departing the cafeteria.
- **Extended School Program:** ESP begins tomorrow, from 7:00 to 7:50 AM, and from 3:20 to 5:30 PM. Note: Students be arranged to stay for ESP are ask—especially for younger students--to bring an activity bag to school with play items for ESP only (favorite games, toys, cards, dolls, etc.), along with an afternoon snack. We look to make this time a peaceful and enjoyable period when students are able to play safely in stable classroom or sibling groups.
- **Parent/Visitor School Entry:** Parents and visitors are not presently able to enter the school classrooms, hallways, etc. beyond the main school office. To meet with your child during the school day, please come to the main school office and your child will be called down to the office area to do so.

- **Pick up Procedure:** We has all parents to either locate on the playground area or north of the line beyond which cars are able to park. This will leave the open asphalt area open for students and teachers to enter and wait for pick up arrival. Parents can make contact with their student's teacher who will release your child to you either toward the playground area or toward the parking area. Thank you.
- **Questions:** Please feel welcome to get in touch if you have any questions or needs.

### **What is the St. Thomas Re-Opening Plan for quarantines?**

The St. Thomas plan states: "The St. Thomas school community will follow pending Washtenaw Department of Health quarantine requirements." The Washtenaw County Health Department has determined that they will not be issuing generalized guidelines to schools regarding quarantines. Quarantine procedures will be determined by the county health department on a case by case basis based on the results of their contact with the school and parents involved in a particular case. The school does not, as such, put into place a quarantine, the county health department does so with direct communication with the families involved and with the school.

### **St. Thomas Athletics ~ Fall 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball**

The governor's office has given approval for outdoor practice of girls volley ball this fall. We wait for further clarification on our being able to conduct competitive games., St. Thomas will join seven teams in the Ann Arbor Independent Athletic Association to compete on the volleyball court this fall. Practices will take place on Monday and Friday afternoons, with games on Tuesday and Thursday.

Following the currently published MHSAA reopening protocols, Coach Cullen will begin volley ball practice outdoors on **Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**. Physicals on file from last year have been approved to be valid for play this fall. Our first game is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King, our second game will be again Huron Valley at home. Practices will be conducted outdoors. Email Mr. Miller for additional details and to register for the team. A pay-to-play fee of \$50 will be assessed to support our St. Thomas athletics program. Contact [Ms. Cullen](#) for more information

### **Instrumental Music Update**

Mr. Darin Good informed me at the end of last week that he had made the decision to accept a fulltime position with a district near his home in Grass Lake. I congratulated Mr. Good on his garnering such a solid first step in his career. It was very encouraging to meet such a talented, motivated and faith-filled young teacher. We are currently in conversation with additional candidates and look to fill the role of our instrumental music director as soon as possible.

### **Grade School Enrollment Update**

We extend a warm welcome to our new St. Thomas families joining us this school year! Our current enrollment is 76 students.

- **The Barwig Family**, Don and Katie ~ Reagen, Kindergarten and Peyton, 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Kindergarten (15)—Mr. Pietryga

First Grade (12)—Ms. Kreifels

Second (7) and Third Grade (10)—Ms. Cullen

Fourth Grade (10)—Mr. Creaser

Fifth (7) and Sixth Grade (4) Homeroom—Ms. Block

Seventh (9) and Eighth Grade (2) Homeroom—Ms. Lorang