



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

2020-2021 Theme ~ *gratia cantantes* (Gratitude)  
Margaret Mary Term Virtue: Patience

October 19, 2020



Feast of St. Margaret Mary ~  
Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
October 16th



*"My greatest happiness is to be before the Blessed Sacrament,  
where my heart is, as it were, in Its center."*

*Sincere thanks to our Parent Association and our PA Leadership for organizing our 2020 Fall Festival~!*



## ~ Events Calendar ~

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



Friday, October 30th  
**Last Day of Margaret Mary Term**

Sunday, November 1st  
**St. Thomas 'Walking with the Saints' Pilgrimage**

Between 2:00 – 6:30 PM

For more information/to register:

<https://www.stfrancisa2.com/walking-with-the-saints/>

Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**First Day of Nicholas Term**

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Margaret Mary Term**  
**Online Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
 3:30 – 9:00 PM

**Sign-Up Genius Available Next Monday**

Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
**No School**

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
**4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Fee Due**

Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
**St. Thomas Picture Day**  
*Mark Your Calendars!*

## From the Headmaster

A classical Catholic education is fundamentally focused on training a child to think. While children naturally develop reasoning capabilities by the age of 7, without appropriate and intentional training in the powers of thought, a child's capabilities to use the inestimable power of logical and poetic thought are stunted and unrealized.

The St. Thomas classical curriculum therefore intentionally develops specific critical thinking skills that empower a child's capacity to reason and to experience thought as a power of perceptive

	Clarity	Relevance	Depth
K/1 <sup>st</sup>	1. Listens attentively and maintains focus. 2. Asks questions to clarify confusion.	3. Responds to questions with an on-topic response. 4. Volunteers one's own on-topic ideas in discussion.	1. Answers questions with evidence or a reason. 2. Agrees or disagrees with a reason.
2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	3. Examines meaning of terms or phrases. 4. Identifies a thesis, concept or principle.	5. Identifies evidence from a text to support ideas. 6. Demonstrates personal relevant connections to key ideas.	3. Makes inferences or hypotheses about cause or result. 4. Agrees or disagrees with others' ideas and provides a relevant explanation.
4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	5. Explains the meaning of a thesis, concept or principle. 6. Demonstrates logical ordering of thought or reasoning.	5. Uses evidence from a text to explain ideas. 6. Recalls and locates supportive elements that are relevant to discussion.	5. Explores implications of or extends an idea, inference or hypothesis. 6. Demonstrates ability to identify/argue opposite points of view.
6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>	7. Applies thesis, concept or principle to a new context. 8. Identifies logical flaws of clarity in reasoning.	7. Evaluates the weight and value of evidence or data in justifying a conclusion. 8. Identifies logical flaws of relevance in reasoning.	7. Retraces reasoning process or constructs explanation. 8. Identifies hidden assumptions in reasoning.
8 <sup>th</sup>	9. Creates coherent generalizations or abstracts conceptually.	9. Demonstrates understanding of the difference between absolute and relative.	9. Identifies the value or meaning of concepts in terms of human life.



awareness. Each grade, from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, has three specific critical thinking skills that our teachers develop through the key practices of questioning and dialog. Attached is the St. Thomas Critical Thinking Skills Scope and Sequence.

We invite you to look through this curriculum of critical thinking skills and see those which your child is being supported in through the year ahead. We encourage parents to explore these skills in talking with your children, noticing when they are being used and how. Teachers have adopted the three skills per grade and are folding them in all core subject dialogue which animates our classical pedagogy.

## School Service Teams Re-convene

Please review our St. Thomas service teams and their activities below and contact the parent or staff leader to express your interest in helping St. Thomas School move forward in each of these areas.

**Parent Association**—*Building Student and Family Community.* We ask that at least one parent representative from each grade join in work together to provide opportunities for our students and families celebrate the St. Thomas School community through the feasts of the school year. [Laura Johnson](#)

**Spirituality Team**—*Deepening Our Student and Family Faith.* [Rebecca Pearson](#)

**Marketing Team**—*Promoting St. Thomas School.* [Mike Hanley](#)

**Curriculum Team**—*Sharpening Our Classical Focus.* [Mr. DiLaura](#)

**Library Team**—*Promoting & Developing our Collection.* [Sarah Davignon](#)

*We are St. Thomas~!*

## Boys Basketball Begins Monday, November 2nd.

All 4th-8th grade boys are invite to come out. **Practice times are from 3:30pm until 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.** If you are not able to make every practice due to other commitments, please don't let that stop you from playing.

To play upper school sports, participants are required to pay a \$50 fee and provide an up to date physical. If you have a physical on file from last year that will be valid this year as well due to Covid 19 allowances. If not the physical must be dated after April 15, 2020 and clear the student for physical activity.

Please come dressed in appropriate athletic attire and practice jerseys. If you didn't play basketball last year, you will be able to buy a practice jersey. I will host a parent meeting at **4:30 pm on Monday, November 2nd** to go over important info and answer any questions. Please make your \$50 fee payment through [eFunds](#) by **November 13th.**