



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

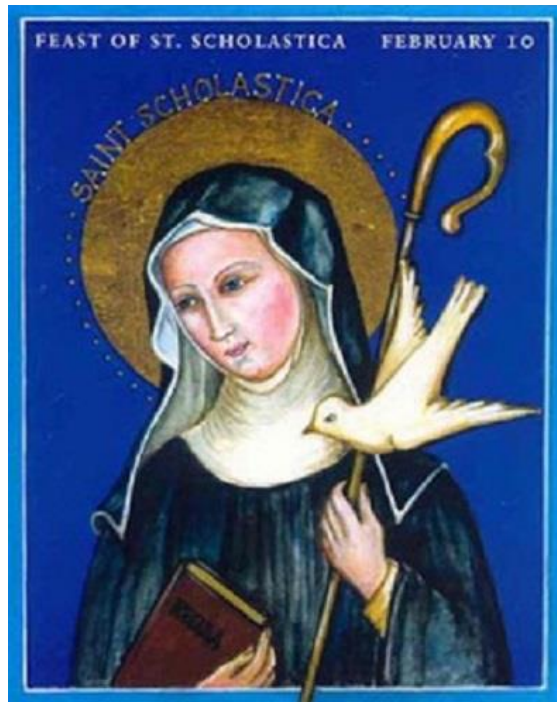
St. Thomas School Community Newsletter January 25, 2021

Scholastica Term Virtue: Docility

School Year Theme ~ *gratia cantantes* (Gratitude)

School Mission Statement

In partnership with Catholic families, St. Thomas seeks to nurture future Catholic scholars, leaders and saints. Assisted by the Holy Spirit, we inspire students to grow intellectually through a classical Catholic curriculum, forming confident youth leaders grounded in virtue. We guide children to become friends of Jesus—to love as He loves, and join our Catholic community's rich tradition of proclaiming the Kingdom and bettering our world.



Scholastica Term ~ January 25th – March 26th



Treat yourself to a beautiful musical experience produced by our **7th an 8th Grade Instrumental Ensemble**

under the direction of Dr. Giovanni Briguento:

“Savior of the Nations, Come” ~ visit <https://youtu.be/TDmRGn2Z9vc>

One response to hearing our students perform:

*“Your students are amazing! They produce a lovely sound.
Their music is beautiful and full of promise and hope.
The sun shines in my heart when I hear them play. Well done.”*

Robert Gilmore

Musician & Past President of the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra

St. Thomas Spelling Bee Knights of Columbus Regional Spelling Bee Participants

Fourth Grade: Serena Jeyaraj, Josephine Maki

Fifth Grade: Charlotte Hanley, Sophia Savarino

Seventh/Eighth Grade: Jasmine Dinh, Sophia Kill

St. Thomas Regional Winners~!



Congratulations to Sophia Kill and Jasmine Dinh—Left: left to right (Level II) and Sophia Savarino and Charlotte Hanley—Right: left to right (Level I) who will represent St. Thomas at the Knights Statewide Spelling Bee in March~!

~ Events Calendar ~

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



Monday, January 25th
First Day of Scholastica Term

Wednesday, January 27th
**Nicholas Term Report Cards
Available Online after 3 PM**

Sunday, January 31st
St. Thomas School Virtual Open House
For Current Parents—learn about your child’s teacher and grade next year.
For Future Parents—share the good word about classical Catholic education.

Preschool Session ~ 1 PM
Kindergarten Session ~ 2 PM
Lower School Session (Grades K – 4) ~ 3 PM
Upper School Session (Grade 5 – 8) ~ 4 PM

Register at: sta2.org/school/openhouse



Upcoming Catholic School Week Events at St. Thomas

Sunday, January 31 – Friday, February 5th

Monday: Eucharistic Procession/All School Mass & Lunch: Special Project

Tuesday: Service Projects

Wednesday: Handwriting & Essay Contest

Thursday: Pizza Party & Handwriting/Essay Contest Awards

Friday: Teachers vs. Students Volleyball Game / Sports Top Jean Day

From the Headmaster

New Diocesan Policy on Gender Dysphoria Promulgated

*“Do not accept anything as the truth if it lacks love.
And do not accept anything as love which lacks truth!
One without the other becomes a destruction lie.”*

Pope Saint John Paul II

This week I attach a beautiful theological guide created as the foundation for the Diocese of Lansing’s Policy on Gender Dysphoria. It is a very effective and inspiring presentation of the wisdom and light of our Faith in regard to the nature of the human person created in the likeness of God—a body-spirit unity that this new policy seeks to protect. It includes sections on the following:

- Christian Anthropology
- The Material Body Reveals the Immaterial Self
- Gender Dysphoria: A Pastoral Approach
- Transgender Ideology
- Apply the Truth of the Church’s Teaching
- Glossary

Classical Catholic Education

“[Educational] communities flourish when they reclaim the Church’s tradition in the classical liberal arts and sciences, which formed some of the sharpest minds and holiest saints in the history of the world.”

As requested, I remind our parents to please read the attached article written by Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, Elizabeth Sullivan, entitled *Reclaiming an Education of Joyful Hope*. This article will help you understand your convictions about authentic Catholic education more deeply and allow you to express them to others more clearly.

Report Cards Available This Wednesday

Parents will be able to access Nicholas Term Report Cards this Wednesday after 3 PM through their PowerSchool account. Please feel welcome to contact Mrs. Steffy if you have any questions in regard to accessing your account. Parents are welcome to contact any teachers should you have questions or would like to conduct a phone or video conference parent-teacher conference.

Student Water Bottle

Per our re-opening plan, all students are to come to school each day with a personal water bottle which can be filled at any of the water bottle filling stations in the school. Thank you.

Winter Diocesan NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Standardized Testing

Kindergarten through 8th grade students are currently taking Reading and Mathematics assessments to monitor current progress and growth compared to fall baseline scores. Parent reports will be available for your review of your child's progress.

Virtual Open House—Sign Up and Extend the Invitation

Our St. Thomas 2021 Open House will actually be four online events—Preschool (1 PM), Kindergarten (2 PM), Lower School (3 PM) and Upper School (4 PM)—hosted live each at their own time on Sunday, **January 31 from 1-5 p.m. on Zoom.**

Please tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this important event so St. Thomas can continue to grow. Attendees will have a chance to meet teachers, ask questions, get virtual classroom tours, and learn more about the scholarships that we have available. Anyone who is interested in attending should sign up now at this link: sta2.org/school/openhouse

Send the registration link (sta2.org/school/openhouse) to anyone you know who might be interested. To learn more about our \$750 tuition credit referral program, please call the school office at (734) 769-0911. Attached is a poster for the Open House. Please share this as well!

As We Begin the New Term~ What Can You Do?

As we begin this third term of the school year, we renew our partnership for your student's success at St. Thomas. Parents can provide these keys supports to their children's progress:

- 3rd - 8th Grade: **Confirm your child's completion of all assigned homework.** Their planner is to come home daily and come back to school each morning. Parents may also check the classroom web portal for assignments.
- Provide **practice at home** in learning math facts, practicing spelling/vocabulary words, etc.
- **Have your child read to you**—this includes older students as well!
- **Read to your children**—including your upper school students! Hearing text/prose at a higher level than they themselves can read being read to them is one of the most powerful means of developing a child's reading and writing abilities—as well as providing a wonderful setting for a family or parent-child time together!



New Flynn O'Hara Spirit Wear with St. Thomas Crest Available

High quality, dress code compliant quarter zip pull overs are now available through [Flynn O'Hara](#) bearing the St. Thomas crest emblem on flocking material. (Heavy fleece and sport styles are shown above.) All St. Thomas apparel available through Flynn O'Hara now bears our standard crest emblem. Flocking emblems are now in and orders will be shipped immediately. Samples can be viewed in the parish office.