



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

## St. Thomas School Community Newsletter February 22, 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.



Congratulations to our students who are being recognized for their excellence in our Catholic Schools Week essay contest.

This week we are proud to share with you the essay of 6<sup>th</sup> grader Fulton Deemer:

### ***"How does St. Thomas School make you a better person?"***

There are many reasons why I am happy to be at St. Thomas Catholic School. To be at St. Thomas is a joy to my whole family. Since I am new to St. Thomas it struck me on the first day, "I am not going to fit in here". Usually, a first impression is wrong, really I had no problem over the months that I have been here. Everyone here fits right in like a puzzle. At the end of the day no one wants to go home and they say, "I don't want to go home, I want to stay here". One of those people is me. I love St. Thomas, most likely different than any other student would. Learning here is different than other public schools that I came from. There is classical education, which I can understand because there is detail describing it more. I love St. Thomas mostly because of its teachers and students. To be in a class where there are only 10-17 students is different than being



in a class of 30 students. Teachers are more patient and kind. They are loving and care for their students like a parent. Students are more gentle. There are no bullies. Students know how to interact with each other more kindly. Therefore, I love it here at St. Thomas because of one main reason . . . GOD! To be with God while I am at school is what every student needs. I am very lucky to be here at St. Thomas Catholic School and I hope this school continues to grow in virtue, to teach me and other how to be like St. Thomas the Apostle.

*Serena Jeyaraj*



Wishing Mrs. Steffy in advance the Happiest of Birthdays this Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> ~!

***We love you Mrs. Steffy and thank you for being such a gift to each and all of us at St. Thomas!***

***May God bless all your intentions with much grace and blessing!***



First grade enjoys a snowy playground and gather around the St. Thomas snowman for a class picture!



Mrs. Lashaway's little kindergarten sheep show off their *los borregos* (sheep) which they made with 10 cotton balls counted in Spanish.

## ~ Events Calendar ~

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



Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Last Friday of the Month **Pizza Lunch Orders Due****

Cheese Only--\$1 per slice—Email Order to [Mrs. Steffy](#)—Pay on [eFunds](#)

Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

**Last Friday of the Month Jean Day**

**Pizza Lunch—Preorders Only**

**Staff vs Student Volleyball Game 2:30 PM**

(Following all-school Mass protocol in gymnasium:

Social Distancing/Masks/Sitting by Class:

Email homeroom teacher to opt-out)

Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

**Current Family Enrollment Registrations Due**

**Gabriel House Jean Day**

Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Winter Break - No School**

## From the Headmaster

**Will Our Students Learn at St. Thomas?** ~ It was a question from the beginning of our transition to classical Catholic education which defined student learning in terms that went beyond the objectives driven, college preparatory curriculum as advertised in conventional, traditional public schools. “Yes, it will be good for my child to experience wonder, to grow in their capacity to speak, think and decide, to recognize Truth, Beauty and Goodness in the world, but will they also be able to succeed in today’s high schools and colleges with such an education?”

With the completion of our Winter Testing we are able to measure our student learning achievement with the widely used North West Evaluation Association’s Measure of Academic Progress assessment (NWEA MAP test) administered to our students each Fall, Winter and Spring. Although not able to test in the spring, this winter we are able to compare this winter’s

results to last fall's and compare the growth made over this period to the national norm growth for this same period, by grade, by subject.

Below are our students' results for Math and Reading. Each class has a calculated average raw score and its national percentile equivalent. When the percentile remains the same from fall to winter, that indicates that the class achieved the same growth in learning from fall to winter as the national norm--for that subject, grade and learning period. When the percentile decreases that indicates a growth less than the national norm, when it increases this indicates a growth larger than the national norm. (Note: SD stands for Standard Deviation, a statistical quantity describing the spread of achievement around the class average score.)

### AA St Thomas Elementary School - Ann Arbor

Math: Math K-12

Grade (Winter 2021)	Growth Count‡	Comparison Periods					
		Fall 2020			Winter 2021		
		Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile
K	16	150.8	7.7	91	159.0	8.7	99
1	11	171.8	9.2	91	180.8	10.0	99
2	7	179.4	12.2	55	185.7	9.4	73
3	10	195.8	10.3	76	202.6	8.5	91
4	10	206.3	8.2	73	213.0	8.7	89
5	7	221.3	16.8	91	226.4	10.6	96
6	4	214.8	10.5	41	220.3	9.3	59
7	9	221.4	12.7	49	229.2	14.3	75
8	2	234.5	9.2	80	240.0	14.1	90

### AA St Thomas Elementary School - Ann Arbor

Language Arts: Reading

Grade (Winter 2021)	Growth Count‡	Comparison Periods					
		Fall 2020			Winter 2021		
		Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile
K	16	146.8	9.4	89	157.7	9.1	99
1	12	169.5	15.7	96	181.1	11.3	99
2	7	176.9	15.3	55	187.3	12.0	88
3	9	204.1	14.7	98	206.4	16.3	98
4	10	212.1	8.4	96	218.6	6.4	99
5	7	229.7	10.8	99	233.3	11.8	99
6	4	211.3	11.3	48	220.0	10.7	84
7	9	223.3	12.6	86	230.2	11.2	97
8	2	225.5	21.9	79	231.0	15.6	92

As seen from these results, St. Thomas outperformed the national growth norm in all 9 grades in Math, and in 7 of 9 grades in Reading, matching the national growth in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade with a class average at the 98<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively. These are astonishingly impressive results! I wish to congratulate our students, our teachers and parents for this wonderful demonstration of what are children are experiencing at St. Thomas as a result of Our Lord's grace, and the daily commitment and effort of our students, teachers and parents. We should all be very proud of our students—and our partnership as teachers and parents that is leading them to such progress.

**Just Three Weeks Remaining--2021-2022 Enrollment Registration Due** ~ We encourage all our currently enrolled families to reserve their seat for the new school year by submitting their enrollment materials by **March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that we are limiting our Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade class size to 16 students given the role that individual student dialogue plays in our classical curriculum and pedagogy. We will begin to accept newly enrolling families registrations in open seats beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>. Registrations received after classes have reached 16 students will go on an enrollment wait list. We are currently planning on separating our currently combined 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class into separate classrooms pending our enrollment.



### Upper School Edge—Upcoming: A Night of Art!

This Thursday! 7 - 8:30 PM in the Youth Room! Come to Edge 6th - 8th graders from our parish. Dress in clothes you can get stained! Bring a mask and a friend. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040945afae2cabff2-stthomas1> . Questions? Email St. Thomas Youth Minister Caroline Biskner at [cbiskner@sta2.org](mailto:cbiskner@sta2.org) .