



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter May 17, 2021

Boniface Term Virtue: Modesty

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.



The Second Vatican Council on attending Mass:

“For on this day Christ’s faithful are bound to come together in one place. They should listen to the word of God and take part in the Eucharist, thus calling to mind the passion, resurrection, and glory of the Lord Jesus, and giving thanks to God...”

(Sacrosanctum Concilium #106).

~The 2021 Laura M Steffy Scholarship Gala~

Sincere thanks to all who assisted in making possible our successful fundraising event which brought together our parish and school community to support Catholic Education at St. Thomas. Fr. Robert Sirico gave a clarion call for us to continue this work we have undertaken at St. Thomas which is so critical for our Church and our culture—especially in Ann Arbor.

Special thanks to Mrs. Pia Gavigan and Mrs. Erin Savarino for the gift of their time and talent in providing for our silent auction and wonderful dinner setting. Our thanks to all our teachers, staff and parents who contributed our silent auction items and to all whose bidding allowed us to support our families at St. Thomas.



~ Events Calendar

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



Monday, May 31st

No School ~ Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 9th

Boniface Term Report Cards Available Online

Friday, June 11th

Last Day of School Picnic - Half Day

Pickup at Allmendinger Park at Noon

No ESP

From the Headmaster

Five Year Accreditation Conferred on St. Thomas School

Congratulations and thanks to our faculty, staff, parents and students for our efforts this past year in preparation for the two day site visit of the Michigan Nonpublic School Accreditation Association team last Thursday and Friday. The team member observed classes, interviewed teachers, staff, parents and students. They also had review over 400 documents which had been prepared to justify the ratings which we had given on 73 school performance benchmarks, over 13 standards in the four domains of Mission, Governance, Academics, and Operations. We were informed that our Diocesan Director of Curriculum had not seen a school having earned so many level 4 ratings (performance ratings span from 1 to 4, a 4 representing a school exceeding the benchmark expectation.) We can all be proud of these results and our accreditation as we continue to be an example of what is possible for Catholic education in our diocese.

Partnering with Parents for the Safety of Our Children

At St. Thomas school we understand a critical role in our partnership with parents as the primary educators of their children to equip you with the tools to support your children's formation. A key aspect of this formation in our time is equipping children with the life skills of being aware of potential threats to their safety and having the tools to respond to these threats. To this end we will be sending home a letter of introduction to the newly developed Diocese of Lansing's *The kNOw Program* designed to provide adults—parents or school officials—with the materials to form children in the awareness needed to remain safe from predatory threats.

The diocese takes our responsibility to support you and our children extremely seriously and requires parents to specifically opt-in or out of participating in this program. Under normal condition the program is provided in person at school with parents attending an age appropriate version with their child(ren). This year, the diocese is offering the program materials with online access to parents. Parents are to watch an introductory video and then use the PowerPoint presentations as an instructional guide in forming their child in a matter that respects their dignity, the sensitivity of the subject, while recognizing the importance of this discussion with children. This week I will be sending you a letter of introduction with access to the Diocese resources along with an opt-in or opt-out response which will be due by **Friday, June 4th**.

Dr. Brigunte Begins His Collegiate Instructional Career

We congratulate Dr. Brigunte on his securing his first college position as Director of Bands at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina beginning this fall. Dr. Brigunte has won the admiration and respect of our band students, leading them with wonderful support, training and direction in the development of their instrumental talents both individually and as 5th/6th grade and 7th/8th ensembles. The students are currently completing preparations for the upcoming recording of their respective pieces. We thank Dr. Brigunte for his contribution to the formation and maturity of our instrumental music students and wish him every success. Dr. Brigunte will be assisting us in our filling the instrumental music director position.

