



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter

May 24, 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.



Mrs. Mangan's 7th and 8th grade studio artists apply their skills in the replication of Our Lady's of Guadalupe's image in pastels. This beautiful rendering was produced by 8th grader, Francis Rutherford.



Congratulations to our First Communicants Lola Reynolds, Isadore Rutherford, Sebastian Magenau, Vincent Pearson, Oliver Derderian, and Ariel Sharp. ***Our sincere thanks and congratulations to Miss Cullen and Miss Henderson*** for the gift of faith that have given our children with their parents, and the gift they have made of these children to Jesus!

~ Events Calendar

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



Wednesday, May 26th

Pizza Friday Orders Due by Noon

Email Mrs. Steffy

Monday, May 31st

No School ~ Memorial Day

Friday, June 4th

kNOw Child Safety Program Notification Due

Opt-in or opt-out email notification required from each family.
Program access links provided below.

Tuesday, June 8th

8th All School Graduation Mass @ 9:30 AM

Wednesday, June 9th

Boniface Term Report Cards Available Online

Thursday, June 10th

**All School End of School Mass
and Awards Ceremony**

Friday, June 11th
Last Day of School Picnic – Half Day
Drop off at Allmendinger Park at 9:00 AM
Pickup at Allmendinger Park at Noon
No ESP

Special Calendar Note: The last days of school are special opportunities for students and teachers to enjoy the fruits of their labors and bring a fitting close to the relationship they have established over the course of the past year. We ask parents to plan summer activities only after our last day of school on Friday, June 11th and avoid students' premature departure from the school community. This respect of our school calendar is due teachers, the student, the other students, and the families in our community. Thank you.

From the Headmaster

St. Thomas Mask Wearing Policy

As the incidence rates of COVID-19 continue to drop, we are grateful to see our state-wide and regional health improve. Reflecting these improvements the CDC recently released revised guidelines regarding wearing masks outdoors and by those who have been vaccinated which was reflected in a revised [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services order](#). Regarding schools, the diocese is following subsequent county health department orders based on the [CDC's follow up guidelines for schools](#) that schools continue to implement their established protocols for masking through the remainder of the school year. Following state, diocesan and country policy based on these guidelines, we will continue to wear masks in school through the end of our school year.

We are grateful to all for the perseverance and shared commitment of our community in maintaining our protocols which have allowed us to avoid the otherwise common quarantining of classrooms, or school closures. We do anticipate being able to begin the 2021-2022 school year without masks.

"In conversations that I have had with the teachers discussing their students, they light up with passion. It is clear that the teachers are deeply invested in the children's spiritual and academic growth."

Accreditation Commendations for Community Review [Attached]

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. These efforts resulted in the recommendation of a 5 year accreditation status to St. Thomas School. I attach comments provided to our community from the site visit team of our superintendent, diocesan education department members, and diocesan principals and teachers. These comments provide a clear and compelling view of our community as it appears to Catholic educational professionals experiencing our community for the first time.

kNOw Program ~ Partnering with Parents for the Safety of Our Children

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.

- Please watch the [parent kNOw Program introduction video](#) to understand the program's design.
- If desired, preview the video session PowerPoint presentations on the [parent resources page](#).
- View and discuss with your child the [age appropriate video session](#) (located below the introductory video.)
- It is required that parents confirm with [Mr. DiLaura](#) via email by **Friday, June 4th** that you have either taken advantage of the program or opted out, in order to confirm with diocesan offices our community's availability to engage in this initiative to protect our children,

St. Thomas Playground Renovation Proposal Team

Our students having a safe, accessible and physically engaging playground is a wonderful dimension to the school campus. We are currently inviting parents to work together as a team with school and parish leaders to develop a proposal for the staged renovation of our playground. The team will take on the responsibilities to investigate designs, equipment, materials, vendors, costs, and help facilitate the fund raising and coordination of the renovation. This is understood to be a long term process, but the timing is right for us both in terms of our school and parish development. If interested, please contact [Mrs. Laura Johnson](#). We look to conduct an orientation meeting before we break for the summer.



Pizza Friday – May 28th

Order via email to [Mrs. Steffy](#) by Noon, Wednesday, May 26th.

Timothy J. DiLaura
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www.sta2.org/school