



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter June 7, 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 7th and 8th graders gather to send Francis Rutherford, Michael Savarino and Miss Lorang on their way with a blessing and promise of prayers as Michael and Francis graduate at our all school Mass this morning



Bach and Beethoven are searching for a summer residence!

Families interested in having their cheerful presence in the home for a few weeks over the summer are invited to contact Mr. DiLaura. They are looking for possibly two families to receive them for 4 weeks each, one from June 19th to July 16th, and the second from July 16th to August 13th. All care materials will be provided with instructions~

~ **Events Calendar**

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



Wednesday, June 9th

**Boniface Term Report Cards Available Online
Field Day House Competition ~ 1:30 - 3:00 PM**

Thursday, June 10th

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

Hard copy report cards, NWEA MAP assessment parent reports,
and award certificates and pins sent home in a personal student envelope.

Friday, June 11th

Last Day of School Picnic - Half Day
Drop off at [South East Area Park](#) at 9:00 AM

Note New Location~!

2901 E. Ellsworth Road Ann Arbor, 48108

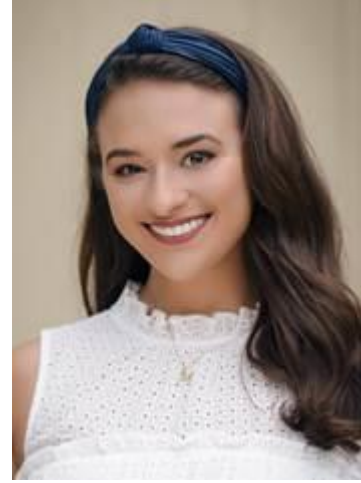
Pickup at park at Noon

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

Please meet our new St. Thomas faculty members~! My thanks to the faculty and parents who have helped these past two months in our candidate search, interview and selection process.



Miss Erin Morrisey (left) will serve as our Upper School English and History teacher. Miss Morrisey graduated from Butler University and is certified in Secondary Education English. Miss Morrisey brings experience in upper and high school teaching, leadership in Catholic women's groups, youth retreats and catechesis, and is a published poet. You can visit her personal website at <https://erinmorrisey.weebly.com>

Mr. Bryce Snyder (middle) will be our 5th grade classroom teacher. Mr. Snyder is a graduate from Hillsdale College with a major in History and a minor in Religion. Along with his liberal arts background at Hillsdale, Mr. Snyder has been teaching 4th grade in a classical school in Indiana and will be moving to the area with his wife Karen.

Miss Amanda Fischer (right) will be our 3rd grade classroom teacher. Miss Fischer is a graduate of Saint Mary's College and is currently enrolled in the University of Dallas' Master of Humanities in Classical Education. Most recently Miss Fischer comes from a teaching fellowship serving in a 4th grade classroom in a classical school in the South Bronx.

We look forward to our school community meeting our new faculty and to the gift of passion, learning and faith which they will bring to our students at St. Thomas~!

St. Thomas Classical Curriculum Resource Review

As we continue to implement and evaluate our curricular resources used to support the instruction of our classical curriculum, we have each year looked to see where improvements may be made in the resources we use in our classical instruction. To this end, we are currently reviewing our Saxon Math text series, and our Abeka grammar series in grades 3 and 4, and our IEW grammar program in 5th through 8th. Teachers are presently reviewing the [Dimensions Math Program](#) produced by Singapore Math for use in Kindergarten through 5th grade, and the [Well-Ordered Language Program](#) published by Classical Academic Press for use in 3rd through 8th grade. Teachers are currently evaluating these resources. We will share their input with parents in the coming weeks in considering their possible use this fall. Both of these programs have been very successfully used to support classical education in other classical schools around the nation.

Dress Code Policy 2021-2022

As our school grows with new students joining our community, our school culture and climate become an important focus with our dress code serving as a significant contributor to the socio-emotional climate our students experience in school. With new students entering at all grades, at the start of our school year we will be placing a special emphasis on compliance with our dress code policy (attached). This gives us all an opportunity to review the dress code and ensure we are fulfilling its standards. Please pay special attention to shoes, socks, belts. Note that 5th grade is an Upper School class and will follow the Upper School Dress Code.

Shoes: **Solid black/dark toned shoes.** K – 8 girls may wear all white sneakers or flats with foot covering. PE Class Only: Tennis shoes. Boots, sandals, clogs, roller shoes, high heels, platform or shoes with logos are not dress code compliant. All shoes must have backs and toes, and be tied at all times.

Boys Examples of Dress Code Compliant Shoes:



Girls Examples of Dress Code Compliant Shoes:



Examples of Non-Compliant Dress Code Shoes:



Socks: **Solid white or dark color crew socks.** Solid color knee socks, leggings or tights in white, black, hunter green (lower school girls only) or navy (upper school girls only).

General: Belt looped pants must be worn with a brown or black belt with metal buckle only. All shirts and blouses must be tucked into pants or skirts. One pair post earrings, girls only. Polish/Make-up: None for lower school, minimal for upper school girls. No distracting haircuts, unnatural colors or styles. Jewelry: Minimal. No hats. Headmaster reserves the right to make final decisions in regard to interpreting and applying the dress code.

Non-Compliance Procedure: AM Homeroom Dress Code Check—A student not dress code compliant will call home from the office to have dress code wear brought to school. Students are re-admitted to the classroom only after being dress code compliant.

Thanks to You ~ Our 2020-2021 Library Achievements

We extend our sincere appreciation to our parents and parishioners who so generously supported the development of our library collection and Catholic Student Reading Room. Special thanks to our Library Committee Members, Amanda Garred, Stephanie Kung, Natalia Fernandez, Todd Moilanen, Chris Russ, Paul Schultz, with our St. Thomas Librarian, Mrs. Sarah Davignon.

1. **129 books** were donated by parents and parishioners.
2. Also through the generosity of our school and parish community, we created a **Doctors of the Church icon wall** and added new, comfortable reading chairs and couches.
3. Our circulation stats have continued to climb. Since switching to our classical curriculum, we have seen a **78% increase** in the total number of circulations, from our first year to now.
4. We started a new club - **the Junior Librarians** - that helps me in the library once a month, learning about what it means to be a librarian.
5. 232 books which were either old, damaged, unused or whose content did not support our school mission were removed from the collection.
6. We hosted a **virtual book fair** and are planning to host another in-person fair next year.
7. **Class visits** to the library did not cease. Each week, every class had an opportunity to come to the library, hear stories or learn research skills, and check-out books.

St. Thomas Girls Volleyball Camp/Boys-Girls Basketball Camp

Join us this summer in the St. Thomas gymnasium for fun and skill development—see attached flyers for registration information.



Fighting Irish
SUMMER Volleyball CAMP
Fun and Skill Development
For St. Thomas Girls entering 4th- 8th grade

Monday, July 12th- Thursday, July 16th
9am - 12pm



3rd Annual Fighting Irish
SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP
For Fun and Skill Development
For St. Thomas Boys & Girls entering 4th- 8th grade

Monday, July 12th - Thursday, July 16th
12pm - 4pm

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.

St. Thomas Vacation Bible School ~ July 26-30

Sign your family up for St. Thomas Vacation Bible School! Our theme this summer is "The Mass: Miracle and Mystery." Participants will encounter the truth and beauty of the Mass through faith formation, prayer, music, crafts, fun games, and snacks! Masks will be optional.

The program will run from July 26-30. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Friday pick-up will be at 11:45 a.m. and families will head over to the church for the climax of our week: Mass at noon! We will conclude with a pizza party for the participants and their families.

[Register now before enrollment fills up!](#)

Timothy J. DiLaura

Headmaster

St. Thomas the Apostle School

Ann Arbor, Michigan

(734) 769-0911



www.sta2.org/school