



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter July 2021

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 end of our 2020-2021 school year was celebrated
with several very special events...



... **St. Thomas Band Ensemble Performances.**

Dr. Giovanni Brigunte and our 5th through 8th grade ensembles are proud to present via video recording [our Spring 2021 performance](#).

Congratulations to our 4th graders (now 5th~!) and Mr. Creaser on their wonderful production of *Beauty and the Beast!*

Special thanks to Mrs. Erin Deemer for all her support of the production~!
Enjoy some pictures by visiting: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/RZk8smhnXTu72Nsh9>



The water balloon toss was a favorite at the **End of School Field Day**~ but the balloon busting relay was exciting too!



... and it was perfect day for our **End of the Year Picnic!**

~ Events Calendar

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



Sunday, August 22nd
Welcome Back to School Picnic
2 - 6 PM
[South East Area Park](#)
2901 E. Ellsworth Road Ann Arbor, 48108

Monday, August 23rd
First Day of School ~ Half Day
Dismissal at 11:40 AM

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.



Mrs. Carla Wood (left) will serve as preschool teacher of our 4 and 5 year old's. Mrs. Wood has five years of preschool lead teacher experience, providing children with relationship based formation and development classroom experiences and forming an effective partnership with parents to ensure a successful preschool experience for their child. Mrs. Wood is excited to implement our classical preschool curriculum focusing on the spiritual, academic, sensory and social development of our preschool children as their preparation for Kindergarten learning.

Miss Gabriela Rock (right) will serve as our Instrumental Music teacher. Miss Rock is currently a student of instrumental music education at the University of Michigan. An accomplished trumpet performer, she has worked with Upper School aged students in both brass and wind ensembles, taught private lessons, and been a finalist and winner in both national and state performance competitions. Miss Rock is excited to continue to build on our students' quality and rich instrumental music performance.

Welcome Mrs. Wood and Miss Rock to St. Thomas~!

St. Thomas Classical Curriculum Resource Update

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 have reviewed our Saxon Math text series in grades K through 6th, our Abeka grammar series in grades 3 and 4 with our IEW grammar program in 5th through 8th. Teachers have reviewed we have determined that it will be a significant benefit to our students to adopt the [Dimensions Math Program](#) produced by Singapore Math in Kindergarten through 6th grade, and the [Well-Ordered Language Program](#) published by Classical Academic Press for use in 3rd through 8th grade.

DIMENSIONS MATH: This curricular resource provides instruction in the conceptual background to the procedural content of mathematics which will allow students to gain a deeper understanding and more

intuitive grasp of the procedural, skill based aspects of mathematics. Aligned with our classical approach to learning, students will be able to see the underlying concepts of the problem solving methods and procedures, thereby offering a richer experience of math and avoiding a superficial and disengaging emphasis on mathematical practices.

WELL-ORDERED LANGUAGE: Similarly, this program offers a deeper exposure to the organization and structure of the English language as an end in itself, moving beyond the functional role of linguistic parts, and developing a vantage point to not only use the language but to understand its use. In light of our classical understanding of learning, the value of this understanding of language significant, and will open doors in our students minds to the beauty, power and structure of language.

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

Join us Monday through Thursday, July 9th through the 15th, 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 15th
Girls: 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 15th
12pm – 4pm

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.

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!](#)