



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter August 24, 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.



2021-2022 School Theme: *Beneficentia* (Generosity)

Term Virtue Focus

Term	Cardinal Virtue	Virtue of the Term	Explanation
Margaret Mary	Justice	<i>Kindness</i>	Expressing genuine concern for the needs and well-being of others
Nicholas	Prudence	<i>Foresight</i>	Consideration of the consequences of one's choices before acting
Scholastica	Fortitude	<i>Perseverance</i>	Taking the steps necessary to carry out one's duties in spite of difficulties
Boniface	Temperance	<i>Humility</i>	Awareness that all our gifts come from God, appreciation of other's gifts



Our thanks to Mrs. Pia Gavigan, parent helpers and Mrs. Steffy for hosting such a beautiful picnic for our families to rejoin and begin our new school year together with fun and food~!



These newly acquired works of art are now in our St. Thomas hallways for our children's enrichment.

From upper left, clockwise~

Guardian Angel by Hal Frenck

Guardian Angel, 1854 by Antonio Zona

La Vierge aux anges, by William Adolphe Bouguereau

Snap the Whip, by Winslow Homer

Two Young Girls at the Piano, 1892 by Pierre-Auguste Renoir

~ Events Calendar

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



Thursday, August 26th
Girls Volleyball—First Practice 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Before School Friday, September 3rd – Monday, September 6th
Labor Day Weekend Break—No School

Tuesday, September 7th
Extended School Day Program Begins

Before School: 7:00 – 7:50 AM

After school: 3:20 – 5:30 PM

Sunday, September 12th
Parish Picnic ~ 1:00 – 4:00 PM
[Volunteer~!](#)

From the Headmaster

Our First Day of School was an exciting day for both our new and returning students, as well as for our new and returning teachers and staff. Special thanks to all for supporting our Return to School Picnic last Friday. It has been a quick summer! We now settle into the rhythm and flow of spiritual, academic and emotional growth that is each school year at St. Thomas. We are centering ourselves on Jesus Christ, knowing that all our good comes from Him—all faith, all wisdom, all peace. So we open our minds and our hearts to Him as He serves as The Teacher at St. Thomas School. Let us renew our community commitment to prayer for our students, our teachers and staff, that we may all be docile to the gift of the Holy Spirit in all the ways that He will manifest Himself among us this school year. Thank you in advance for all your prayers for our St. Thomas School Community now and through the year ahead.



Special Request ~ As we begin the year we would like to enlist our parents in support of our ***St. Thomas Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 12th from 1 to 4 PM.*** I ask our parents to offer an hour of their afternoon to assist at the various games that will be provided, thinking that our school children will enjoy these game activities in particular at the picnic. Please visit [the sign up](#) for the picnic games and select a time and one hour time block to support this special day for both our school and parish family. Note all our St. Thomas School families, even if not members of St. Thomas Parish, are invited to this event!

Quick Reminders:

COVID-19 Protocols ~ Please ensure all students bring a water bottle, preferable plastic versus metal, to keep hydrated during the school day. All water dispensers in the school are bottle filling stations only.

Extended School Day Program ~ Our program is scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 7th for both before school, beginning at 7:00 AM, and after school care ending at 5:30 PM.



St. Thomas School Moms Book Club

A book club is being planned for this 2021-22 school year for St. Thomas School moms. The book list will come from The Well-Read Mom (<https://wellreadmom.com/>) which includes both spiritual and classic books. Group discussions will be held on weekday evenings 2-3 times each semester. Contact Lindsey Robitaille at lindsrobit@hotmail.com to be added to the group contact list.

St. Thomas String Orchestra Sign-up

Please use the google form in the link below to obtain additional information and express interest in your child receiving violin, viola or cello lessons on Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:45 PM with Ms. Britany Osman. Learn more [here](#).



4th-8th grade St. Thomas Volleyball Season is Beginning!

If interested, there will be a \$50 athletic fee submitted to e-funds, and all players must turn in their MHSAA physical to the office. Expect to have volleyball practices/games every day but Wednesdays. It is an 8 week season.

Bring:

--kneepads / change of clothes for the gym / WATER BOTTLE

--athletic/volleyball shoes- *these may be the ones from school for gym class, but be mindful that they will leave the building for away games and players do not want to forget them for gym classes later in the week! These shoes are used only for gym purposes to avoid dirt on the court. They will not participate unless they have appropriate shoes during play time as a safety precaution.*



Practices: Mondays/Fridays 3:30-5:00pm

All students participating will report to ESP until I pick them up. Please change right after school so we can be ready to play by the time I arrive. If they need a snack, please provide one. If there is no game, practice will be in place instead.

Until our first game, practices will be every day but Wednesdays. Our first practice will be on Thursday, August 26.

Tentative Game Schedule:

Tuesdays (away)/Thursdays (home) JV games: 4:15 PM / Varsity games: 5:15 PM

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Tues, Sept. 7: Away vs SSA Ann Arbor

Thurs, Sept. 9 Home vs SSA Plymouth (will be rescheduled to a different date!!)

Tues, Sept 14: Away vs Huron Valley (will be rescheduled to a different date!)

Thurs, Sept. 16: Home vs Emerson

Tues, Sept. 21: Away vs St. Mary

Thurs, Sept 23: Home vs TBD

Tues, Sept 28: Away vs St. Paul

Thurs, Sept. 30: Home vs Christ the King

Tues, Oct. 5: Home vs WCA

Thurs, Oct. 7: Away vs Steiner

Tues, Oct. 12: Away vs AACS

Fri/Sat, Oct. 15: Varsity tournament

Expect regular email updates regarding activities each week regarding games, practices, schedules, etc. They will provide more specific details related to that time.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask me (mcullen@sta2.org), Conrad Miller (cmiller@sta2.org), and/or Laura Steffy (lsteffy@sta2.org).

Go Irish!

Coach Cullen

St. Thomas COVID-19 Protocol

- Please see the attached current version of the Diocese of Lansing plan which we will be following at St. Thomas.
- St. Thomas will continue to:
 - Sanitize common surfaces during the school day.
 - Sanitize all classroom desks and common surfaces each night.
 - Run classroom air purification units in each classroom (with open window ventilation as weather permits).
 - Use hand sanitization stations in each classroom and common area.
 - Preschool drop off will take place at the 'fish howl' entrance doors.
 - Parents will not have access to classroom areas.
 - Parents will be expected to monitor their children's health each day.
 - Have students bring packed lunches from home. (Hot lunch orders may resume in October.)
 - Students showing any COVID symptoms will be quarantined for home observation and testing.
 - Use the symptom response protocol:

High Risk Symptoms

- Fever--temperature 100.4 F or higher/chills/body aches
- Cough--new onset or worsening
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Change in ability to taste or smell

If demonstrating any one or more high risk symptoms, isolate individual and seek test. Notify school.

Lower Risk Symptoms

- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Congestion/Runny Nose
- Fatigue

If yes to one of the lower risk symptoms stay at home and monitor for resolution or development

of additional symptoms. If yes to two or more of the lower risk symptoms isolate symptomatic individual and seek medical evaluation. Notify school.

- Students will be located at three feet distancing in classrooms and lunch.
- Masks are optional for staff and students. The use of a mask by any staff person or student is a personal choice. Staff or students are not to be requested to wear or not wear a mask.
- Note: The vaccination status of any individual is private health information and will not be disclosed. Parents are not to ask any school staff to provide their private health information.
- Lunch will be conducted in two over-lapping periods, separating transitions, Upper school: 11:00-11:25 AM, Lower: 11:10 – 11:35 AM.
- Positive COVID cases must isolate for 10 days.
- Close contacts of positive COVID cases will be able to attend school so long as they:
 - Remain asymptomatic,
 - Wear a mask through the quarantine period,
 - Get tested for COVID twice a week through the quarantine period AND test negative.