



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter September 27, 2021

***Margaret Mary Term Virtue:
Kindness***

School Year Theme ~ *Beneficentia* (Generosity)

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 greatest challenge to Catholic Education in the United States today, and the greatest contribution that authentically Catholic education can make to American culture, is to restore to that culture the conviction that human beings can grasp the truth of things, and in grasping the truth of things, can know their duties to God, to themselves and their neighbors... The contemporary world urgently needs the service of educational institutions that uphold and teach that truth is 'that fundamental value without which freedom, justice, and human dignity are extinguished.'"

St. John Paul the Great, 1993



Our Kindergarteners show their pharaoh crowns after studying the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt.

~ Events Calendar

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



Wednesday, October 6th

Fr. Gabriel Richard High School Open House

6:30 PM

[Click for information and to register](#)

Friday, October 8th

Parent-Student Handbook Signatory Pages Due

3rd-8th Grade Confessions

9:30 – 11:00 AM Church

Tuesday, October 12th

St. Thomas Parent Orientation & Fellowship

6:30 PM

Friday, October 22nd

St. Thomas School Fall Festival

Thursday, October 28th
School Development Teams Meeting
7:00PM ~ Parish Hall

Wednesday--Thursday, November 3rd-4th
Margaret Mary Term
Parent ~ Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 5th
No School - Records Day

Friday, November 19th

Save the Date~!

St. Thomas Parent Evening
with **Dr. Mary Healy**

Made in the Image of God: Faith, Gender and Education

Wine and Hors D'oeuvres
7:00 PM ~ Parish Hall

From the Headmaster

St. Thomas Parent Orientation & Fellowship

All our parents are invited to the parish hall, Tuesday evening October 12th at 6:30 PM to have the opportunity to come together and receive an update on our activities for the new school year, receive an update from our school development team leaders, chat with teachers, learn about upcoming Parent Association activities, as well as have the opportunity to visit with parents, Please note that this evening is for adults only. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to gathering and discussing our school year ahead.

St. Thomas 2021-2022 Parent/Student Policy Handbook:

All families should now have a copy of our Parent/Student Handbook along with a signatory page for parent and student signatures. We ask that all families review the policy documents, sign the signatory page and return it to the main office by this **Friday, October 8, 2021**.

COVID Procedures Update:

Last Friday the 2021-2022 Michigan State budget bill took effect which was recently approved by the state legislature and signed by the governor. This bill included provisions preventing mask requirements for those under 18. While the governor expresses the opinion that the mask mandate provisions in the bill are unconstitutional, several county health departments in Michigan have rescinded their mandates, although Washtenaw County has not yet done so. Given that the matter has yet to be adjudicated by the courts, we currently do not have the legal basis needed to enforce children's masking and therefore defer to our students' parents to determine whether their child will wear a mask to school or not. Should the courts provide additional clarity on this matter, we will review with diocesan legal counsel on enforcing the mandate that all students and staff wear a mask. This bill does not impact adult school staff, who will continue to wear a mask unless subject to an exemption under the county order.

ESP Update:

ESP Parents ~ Please note that ESP payments to be made based on your monthly billing are to be made via your eFunds account. Please feel welcome to contact [Mrs. Teresa Ordiway](#), our book keeper if you have any questions. Thank you.

Dimensions Math Homework Support Video Access for Grade 1st – 4th

We are providing parents the following links to provide you guidance in supporting your child in their completion of the Dimensions Math workbook homework assignments. Feel welcome to use the following access links to our Vimeo subscription these videos, selecting the lesson and activity you would like to watch. Tutorials are generally about 4 to 6 minutes in length.

- ▶ **Access 1st Grade Homework Support**
- ▶ **Access 2nd Grade Homework Support**
- ▶ **Access 3rd Grade Homework Support**
- ▶ **Access 4th Grade Homework Support**

St. Thomas Development Plan Update ~ Join us!

We invite everyone interested in the future of St. Thomas School to join us at our upcoming team meetings at which we will develop

- a new mission statement,
- statements of our cultural values for students, faculty and parents,
- operational and crisis management plans, and
- marketing and development plans

As we look to the continued growth and development of St. Thomas School. Please feel welcome to contact our team leads for more information. Join us in the parish hall at 7:30 PM on~

Thursday, October 28th Thursday, December 2nd

Mission and Vision: Lead ~ [Mike Hanley](#)

Cultural Values: Lead ~ [Lindsey Robitaille](#)

Operational & Crisis Management Plans: Lead ~ [Tim DiLaura](#)

Marketing & Development Plans: Lead ~ [Chris Russ](#)