



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas School Community Newsletter July 15, 2022

Summer Updates

School Mission Statement

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Educating in the Eucharistic culture and classical intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church, students are led to encounters with the transcendental good, true, and beautiful. In wonder, confidence, and virtue, students are prepared to engage our broken world for the glory of God, the good of others, and for their own sanctification.



~ Events Calendar ~

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

Monday, August 8th
School Office Reopens

August 15th-19th, 22nd
Staff Orientation

Monday, August 22nd
All-School Picnic Family Picnic at Southeast Area Park, 4-7 PM
More information to come!

Tuesday, August 23rd
First Day of School - Half Day
Students dismissed at 11:40

From the Headmaster

Prayer Request

As we prepare for the school year, I ask all families, in the weeks leading up to the school year, to offer up a Divine Mercy Chaplet each Friday for the school. As human beings, we are rather poor, but with Christ working in us, with His mercy to cleanse us, we are deeply enriched. I am convinced that the “success” of our school is dependent, among other things, on our remaining small, “poor in spirit,” so that we are constantly reminded how much we need the riches of His grace.

New Faculty

I am pleased to introduce you to our three latest hires, which now fills our remaining positions at the school!

As our preschool grows, we are very grateful to have **Mrs. Elsy Ramos** as a new lead teacher. She was born in Cuba, where she spent the first sixteen years of her life. Her family then came to the United States of America as political refugees and started a new life in Miami, Florida. After attending Florida International University for her undergraduate studies in Biological Sciences, she worked as a behavior therapist in the classroom with young elementary children. She relocated to the Detroit metro area in 2017, where she currently lives with her husband and two dogs. Mrs. Ramos is very excited to begin the school year and meet and work with her new students.



We are looking forward to seeing **Miss Meg Berger** in action in our 2nd-grade classroom. Miss Berger holds a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts from Thomas More College in New Hampshire, which is a long way from her native Michigan. She has worked in childcare for over 12 years and has worked in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 8 years. She has helped start two atriiums and received her Level 1 certification in Monroe, Michigan in 2018. Ms. Berger is very grateful for the opportunity to join the St. Thomas School community, and looks forward to this coming school year.



We are also excited to introduce **Miss Emily Mistaleski** (soon to be Mrs. Emily Carter), our new 3rd-grade teacher. Miss Mistaleski is a graduate of Wyoming Catholic College, where she earned her Bachelor's in Liberal Arts. While there, she worked as a catechist for young children and as a counselor for high schoolers. She also was a backpacking co-instructor, leading trips at the college. She loves writing and has presented a paper at Braniff Undergraduate Conference in the Liberal Arts at the University of Dallas. She is excited to help lead her students to the love of truth that she herself received.



New Schedule and Mass Time

In order to enable us to have 7 full 50-minute periods (instead of the 6.5 we had last year) for the K-9 students, we have switched to having a daily school Mass offered at 8:00 AM Tuesday-Friday. This Mass will of course be open to school parents as well. We are deeply grateful to Fr. Bill and Fr. Gerald for doing this for the school. Along with allowing for more class time, this new time will also allow a more flexible lunch schedule, which will be quite helpful as we develop a full K-12 school. This means that, while doors in the morning will open, as before, at 7:45, **students will now be considered tardy who arrive after 7:55**. We need to be extra efficient in the morning to accommodate our priests so they can start on time! **Dismissal will now be at 3:25**.

P.E. Clothes for 6th-8th

Due to COVID, 6th-8th graders have simply been wearing their school clothes for P.E. class. We are now going to reinstate the rule that 6th-8th graders will need to change before P.E. class into a P.E. "uniform", consisting of a St. Thomas t-shirt and gym shorts. The school bulk-purchases these in a variety of sizes, and students are given their shirt and shorts by Mr. Miller at the beginning of the school year. Payment for the P.E. uniform is due Friday, August 26th. K-5th will continue to wear their school uniform in P.E. class.

High School Update

Though this coming school year will in many ways be a kind of “transition year” for the new high, or “upper,” school, we plan to put in place as many distinctive features of our overall plan as we can. Our upper school formation team has been busy developing a filled-out vision and curriculum (parents of 9th graders will be receiving a separate communication with more details). As we work, we have been excited and encouraged to see the way that a number of things have unexpectedly come together. I am convinced that no work of ours will truly succeed without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to develop a truly integrated approach that is focused and not disparate, contemplative and not “busy,” formative and not frivolous. In this way, it will be a natural outgrowth of the strong formation students are already receiving at the PreK-8 level. We ask for the intercession of the four patron saints of the upper (high) school (and soon to be the respective patrons of the four households that will be formed in future years): St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Edith Stein, St. Don Bosco, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Here are some highlights of the upper-school program (as it develops):

- Daily Mass
- Daily prayer, especially drawing from Ignatian spirituality, and mentoring
- Integrated coursework, including a Trivium track
- Schola and Latin multiple times per week
- A mandatory, focused sports program as part of the curriculum and household life
- Immersive missions that allow students to participate in a sacramental vision of reality
- Households for brotherhood and sisterhood and healthy competition

Playground Update

Because of supply-chain issues, the new playground will not be installed until next spring (winter installation is not possible). Please see the attached drawing for an idea of what it will look like! This will be paid for from grant money that the school has already received. Meanwhile, plans for installing Astro-turf for the pre-school play area are moving forward, and we are also looking into the costs and timeline of fixing the retaining wall around the playground area, again using grant funds.

Michael J Sauter

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www.sta2.org/school