



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter January 30th, 2023

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.

Virtue for the School Year: *Devotio* (Devotion)

- Having the will to give oneself readily in the service of God

Virtue for Scholastica Term: Perseverance

- Enduring a delay in when a good may be accomplished or realized



~ Events Calendar ~

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

Wednesday, February 1st
Dress-Up/Leadership Day

Thursday, February 2nd
Michael House Award Day

January 23rd-February 3rd
NWEA Testing (Round 2)

January 30th-February 3rd
Catholic Schools Week (see daily schedule below)

Thursday, February 16th
Registration Materials Due

Friday, February 17th-Monday, February 20th
Presidents' Day Break

Congratulations to Our Top Spellers!

The following 5 students from grades 4-8 won the right to represent St. Thomas at the regional Diocesan spelling bee, organized by the Knights of Columbus and held this past Saturday at St. Thomas:

- Marlee Meier (4th)
- Madeleine Hanley (5th)
- Serena Jeyaraj (6th)
- Charlotte Hanley (7th)
- Owen Dauw (8th)

Nicholas Term Honor Roll (5th-9th)

Please see the attached document for the honor roll lists, based on grades in the 6 academic subjects (Math, History, English, Nature Studies, Religion, and Latin). Well done, students!

Announcement/Reminder

- As some of you may have already heard, our 5th-9th grade Nature Studies teacher, Elizabeth Patyi, is expecting! She is due August 8th. Please keep her, her baby, and her husband, Anthony, in your prayers.
- A reminder that the registration materials and fee for next school year are due on February 16th, the day before Presidents' Day break!

Clarification on Devices in School

The policy regarding devices at school was something that I admittedly took for granted but about which I am realizing that refresher/clarification is needed. The following was already sent out to middle and upper school parents, but I would like to send this out to everyone so that we're all on the same page through the end of the school year:

In general, students are not to bring cell phones, smart watches, gaming or audio devices, Kindles, or similar devices to school. If a student is found with one of these, they will be confiscated and brought to the office. As a note, both lockers and backpacks are subject to being searched by the school as needed. This week will be a grace period during which students themselves will be able to retrieve them at the end of the day. Starting next week, they will only be retrievable by a parent. Going forward thereafter, a repeat offence can merit a suspension.

If for some reason a student needs a cell phone for after school, the parents are required to notify the school, and the student must check in the phone to the office immediately when he or she enters school. The student may pick it up at the end of the school day.

I understand there are grey-area wrist-watch devices. Generally, no devices with access to messaging, calling, or the internet may be used, even if only with a limited list of recipients. Please contact me or Mr. McCoy with any questions concerning these or any other aspect of the policy.

Beginning next year, the section of the handbook pertaining to this issue will be updated and clarified. Please understand that all of this is in the service of maintaining and developing a classical Catholic school culture focused on in-person interactions and the written and spoken word.

Thank you for your continued support from home, which is vital in helping us to establish a rich school culture of faith, friendship, and thought!

Events

- Candlemas/Feast of the Presentation/Purification – Feb. 2nd
 - We will have a candle-lit procession with all of the students to lead into the school Mass on the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. Parents are warmly invited to participate and to join us after Mass for donuts in the parish hall. You or the students are also invited to bring candles from home to be blessed after Mass by Fr. Bill.

- Catholic Schools Week Tentative Schedule
 - Monday, January 30th: All-school rosary during morning assembly
 - Parents welcome!
 - Tuesday, January 31st: Gratitude Day 1: Teacher Thank-You Letters
 - Organized by the Parent Association
 - Wednesday, February 1st: Gratitude Day 2: Parent Thank-You Letters (in class)
 - Dress-up/Leadership Day

- Thursday, February 2nd: Candlemas Procession, Mass, and After-Mass Treat
 - Parents welcome! Bring candles to be blessed!
- Friday, February 3rd: Students vs. Faculty Basketball in the Gym (Starting around 2:30)
 - Parents welcome!
 - Bonus Jeans Day!

Tutors

I am currently in the process of interviewing and vetting potential tutors for the school, particularly in the subject areas of Math (grades 1-9) and Latin (grades 5-9). Once I have a group together who have turned in their Virtus training certificate and finger-printing, I will be sending out their contact information and we would be happy to help you get connected with a tutor that could help your child. From there, parents can arrange directly with tutors the time and place. Parents will also set up a mutually agreeable compensation. The school is happy to provide a location for a tutoring session, and, in the case of pressing financial need, we would also consider offering financial support for parents to afford a tutor. Please stay tuned for further information.

Parish Events

Please see attached flyers for upcoming events at the parish:

- Couples Dinner this Saturday (Feb. 4th)
- First Fridays for Tots (ongoing)
- Daddy/Daughter Dance (Feb. 11th)