



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter February 21st, 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](#).

Friday, February 24th

Jeans Day

Wednesday, March 1st

Dress-up/Leadership Day

Friday, March 3rd

6-9 Choir Festival (7:00 AM-12:30 PM)

March 1st-31st
Reading Month and Food Drive – See Below/Flyers

March 17-20
Winter Break

Announcements!

I am excited to announce that Khrista Boes, our school bookkeeper, is expecting! She and her husband Neil just found out that the baby is a boy, so their daughter Ava will have a new baby brother to play with. Khrista's due date is August 31st. Please keep her and her family in your prayers!

I am also pleased to introduce you to Miss Anna Schubert, who has agreed to be our long-term sub when Mrs. Carter goes on maternity leave at the end of March. Miss Schubert will be joining the 3rd-grade class beginning next week as a teacher's aide. She will work full-time, side-by-side with Mrs. Carter to become acclimated to the class and the curriculum before taking over at the end of March.

Miss Schubert has attended Wyoming Catholic College and is currently taking a gap year before finishing her senior year. She has worked for summers at Camp Sancta Maria in Gaylord and has worked with children as a nature specialist. She has also led backpacking trips for students at Wyoming Catholic College, one of which she took with Mrs. Carter. Miss Schubert is returning from an extended stay in Lebanon at a monastery, and she is excited to work alongside Mrs. Carter, bringing her love of reading, music, and the outdoors to the 3rd-grade classroom.



March Reading Month

Please see the attached flyer for a summary of the themes for the days of the month and the special dress days on the Fridays of the month. This year, instead of using an App, classroom teachers will be tracking reading minutes for their classrooms and handling classroom prizes. There will also be a school-wide winner based on average minutes/student. Parents will need to sign off on student minutes, using a form created by the classroom teacher. Please ensure that the reports are accurate.

Teachers will be using the reading competition to encourage students to read good and beautiful literature. Reading forms the imagination, the mind, and the heart, and it is foundational to a student's development. In the classical tradition of education, *what* they're reading matters just as much as the fact *that* they're reading. Left solely to their own choice, students tend to habituate themselves to what is immediately entertaining within a limited set of genres and styles. But we want to habituate them to a richer and more beautiful tradition of literature, especially in view of the more challenging works they will encounter in the middle and upper schools. That habituation and formation of the mind takes time, since it requires the mind to slow down, to work through books that aren't as immediately attention-grabbing or gratifying, but that appeal to a deeper, more enduring world of thought, emotion, and imagery. Reading month is a great opportunity for teachers to give students much needed direction and encouragement towards that goal.

Lenten March Food Drive

Our 6th graders will be leading a schoolwide Lenten food drive on behalf of Hope Clinic. Please see the attached flyer for more information on items that the clinic is seeking. I will likely make this a schoolwide competition with a prize for the winner. More details to come!

Choir Festival

I am looking forward to seeing how our 6th-9th graders perform at the upcoming choir festival on March 3rd at Lincoln High School. The choir will be judged on a group performance and receive additional instruction in singing and sight-reading. This is a great opportunity for the choir to see how it stacks up against other choirs and to receive valuable feedback from choir and singing experts.

Upcoming Professional Development

As I've mentioned in earlier newsletters, on April 24th, K-9 teachers involved with catechesis will attend a diocesan event presenting the Sophia Press curriculum that

the diocese wants all schools to use or to align with. We already use Sophia Press, so we're ahead of the game! **April 24th will be a day off of school for students.**

This year, St. Thomas is teaming up with St. Mary's in Williamston (another classical Catholic school in the diocese) to hold a conference/retreat/professional development at the St. Francis Center in DeWitt from June 13th-15th. Together, we will read and discuss books, listen to speakers, and have time for prayer and conversation. This will be a great opportunity to further develop our classical identity, form teachers more in a classical Catholic approach to teaching, and build a more regional sense of the classical Catholic movement. This event will replace the previously-scheduled professional development day on March 20th (which was already and remains a day off).

Tutor List

Please see the **updated** attached list of names. If you are contacting a potential tutor, please do loop in me, Mr. McCoy, and the relevant classroom teacher. You can handle time, place, and compensation details confidentially, but if the school is aware of the fact that your son or daughter is receiving tutoring and from whom, we can be in communication with the tutor so they can become familiar with the relevant textbook, expectations, and classwork. Feel free to ask a tutor their background and strengths. Each is Virtus certified and in the process of being fingerprinted.