



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter February 27<sup>th</sup>, 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, March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Dress-up/Leadership Day**

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

March 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

**Reading Month and Food Drive**

March 17-20  
**Winter Break**

March 20<sup>th</sup>  
**ARK Testing Window Opens (see below)**

**Thank you!**

Thank you to all who submitted registration forms, for entrusting your children once more to St. Thomas! It is an honor to serve you, to partner with you in their formation. Enrollment continues to grow!

## **From the Headmaster**

Today at assembly we talked about the three temptations that Christ experienced in the desert and how they correspond to the three foundational defects of our fallen human nature: concupiscence of the flesh, concupiscence of the eyes, and pride of life. Concupiscence of the flesh relates to our disordered desire for bodily pleasure, corresponding to the temptation to turn stones into bread. Concupiscence of the eyes relates to our disordered desire for riches and attractions of this world, corresponding to the temptation to govern all kingdoms of the earth. Pride of life relates to the disordered desire to be our own masters and to seek our own glory, corresponding to the temptation to throw himself down from the top of the temple as a display of his power and glory. All of this sets the tone for the rest of Lent, for why we are making sacrifices and praying more. You can see how much of this your child remembers; we'll be reviewing next week!

I also talked about the upcoming reading month and how I have been asking teachers to encourage students to read good literature. I brought up the analogy of eating too much candy to illustrate my point. Candy is very sweet and good and easy to eat, much like light and entertaining books that are easy to read and demand little of the intellect or imagination. Of course, eating candy all the time would be a poor diet indeed; hence we purposefully limit sweets and force children to eat vegetables and other better foods. Reading forms our thoughts, emotions, and imaginations, much like food forms our bodies. If we habituate ourselves to light, sweet, entertaining fare, more difficult and demanding fare becomes less and less palatable. What constitutes "good literature" is ultimately governed by beauty, since literature is an art. It is often the case that the deeply beautiful things – both natural and supernatural – are not the "easy" things, i.e., the things that immediately appeal and that engage only the surface level of things. And that is a good thing, because we

would otherwise hold beauty cheaply. We must be trained to see and appreciate what is truly beautiful, and that is certainly true in reading.

## ARK Testing

The diocese is using a new way of assessing the knowledge of the Catholic Faith of students in grades 2-12. The ARK (Assessment of Religious Knowledge - <https://arktest.org/>) Test is a “sister apostolate” of the Sophia Institute for Teachers and is designed by Catholics for Catholics. All diocesan schools are required to take it. The test will be taken by our 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders this year, including their teachers. This is an online test, the window for which will open on March 20<sup>th</sup> and close on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Tutor List

Please see the 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.