



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter April 17th, 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: Solitude

- An alertness and watchfulness for what needs to be done



~ Events Calendar ~

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

April 15th-May 15th

NWEA Testing Window

April 20th

Raphael House Award Day

April 21st

Mrs. Henderson's Birthday Celebration – Lunchtime treat!

April 24th

Teachers' PD Day for Diocese Sophia Press Roll-Out – No school

April 28th

**St. Thomas Gala/Auction at Weber's, 5:00-9:00 – Tickets now on [sale!](#)
Jeans Day!**

May 3rd

Dress-up/Leadership Day

May 4th, 9:30 a.m.

Upper School Choir State Choir Festival Competition (see below)

May 5th, 9:45 a.m. and May 6th, 7 p.m.

Drama Club Performances (see below)

May 9th, 9 a.m.

Online Systems/Internet Use Parent Discussion with Headmaster (see below)

May 16th

Middle/Upper School Science Fair (more details forthcoming)



Scholastic Term Honor Roll – Congratulations!

Middle School

- **Cum Laude:** Samuel Garred, Josephine Maki, Julian Magenau
- **Magna Cum Laude:** Alexander Wood, Teresa Deemer, Luca DiMattia, Jonathan Sauter, Fulton Deemer, Maria Maki, Tanner Miller
- **Summa Cum Laude:** Madeleine Hanley, Eloise Meinhart, Clare Moilanen, Amelia Eustice, Charlotte Hanley, Owen Dauw

Upper School

- **Cum Laude:** James Hiester
- **Magna Cum Laude:** Paul Restuccia

Raphael House Award Day

For their victory during Scholastica Term, Raphael House members will have a jeans day and extra recess this Thursday (April 20th). They will also receive a homework pass from their classroom/homeroom teacher.

Hiring Announcement

We will dearly miss Mrs. Patyi and Mrs. Raney, neither of whom will be back as full-time teachers next school year. However, I am pleased to announce the hire of Mr. Daniel Votel, who will teach middle and upper school Math and Nature Studies next school year. Mr. Votel graduated from Hillsdale College with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. This past year, he has been teaching at Oakdale, a classical Christian academy in Waterford, Michigan. He is excited to be part of a classical Catholic school and to freely integrate the Faith in his teaching. His background working with boy scouts will be a great asset in his continued work in forming young minds and hearts. I am excited to have Daniel as part of our team and encouraged by his eagerness to get started on this new opportunity!



As a note, we will be hiring one more middle/upper school Math and Nature Studies teacher to replace the two teachers that we are losing.

Survey Results/Future Parent Meeting

Thank you to all who participated in the school survey! We had 45 total responses. The overall results for each ranking question are attached, with a "5" corresponding to "Strongly Agree" and a "1" corresponding to "Strongly Disagree." I will be sharing the results with the teachers as well, including your written feedback, which is much appreciated! Overall, the results were very encouraging. Generally speaking, both from the rated questions and from written feedback, respondents strongly supported the school's Catholic and classical identities and see the positive impact these are having on their children.

Two highlighted areas of improvement were in communication and parent involvement, both of which I too have seen as areas for growth. Related to the first, I am currently working with office staff to look into the possibility of taking a

consolidated approach in place of the various online systems we are currently using – PowerSchool, web portals, eFunds, etc. I would also like to extend an invitation to meet and talk about the alternative online systems route we are pursuing, school and teacher communication, and student use of online platforms on **Tuesday, May 9th, after Mass in the school library**. I would like to address both the practical side of what will work best going forward, as well as the broader, school-related implications of student use of email and other social media.

Upper School Choir State Festival Performance

The date and time for the upper school choir's participation in the State Choir Festival at Albion College have been set for May 4th, with a performance time of 9:30 a.m. immediately followed by a clinic. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Mrs. Herrmann and the 6th-9th graders to display the amazing choir we have at the school!

Drama Club Production Dates Finalized

The drama club, under the direction of Mr. Masset, has been hard at work preparing the one-act play "All We Need Is a Confidence Man." There will be two performances, one for the whole school on May 5th at 9:45 a.m., and one the evening of May 6th at 7 p.m. Both will take place in the parish hall. Parents are invited to come to either or both!

Moms' Book Club

Come join other moms at St. Thomas as we develop a book club! We hope to broaden our knowledge about classical education, as well as to have an opportunity to support and foster relationships in our school community. Our first meeting will be Thursday, May 11th at 2:00 pm to discuss the paper "The Lost Tools of Learning" by Dorothy Sayers (this is a short read, available [here](#)). We will meet at the St. Thomas library, but please check in with the front office. Come join us if you are interested, even if you aren't able to read the paper! Little ones are certainly welcome, but childcare will not be provided. Please contact Laura Hess (MrsLauraHess@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

Playground Update

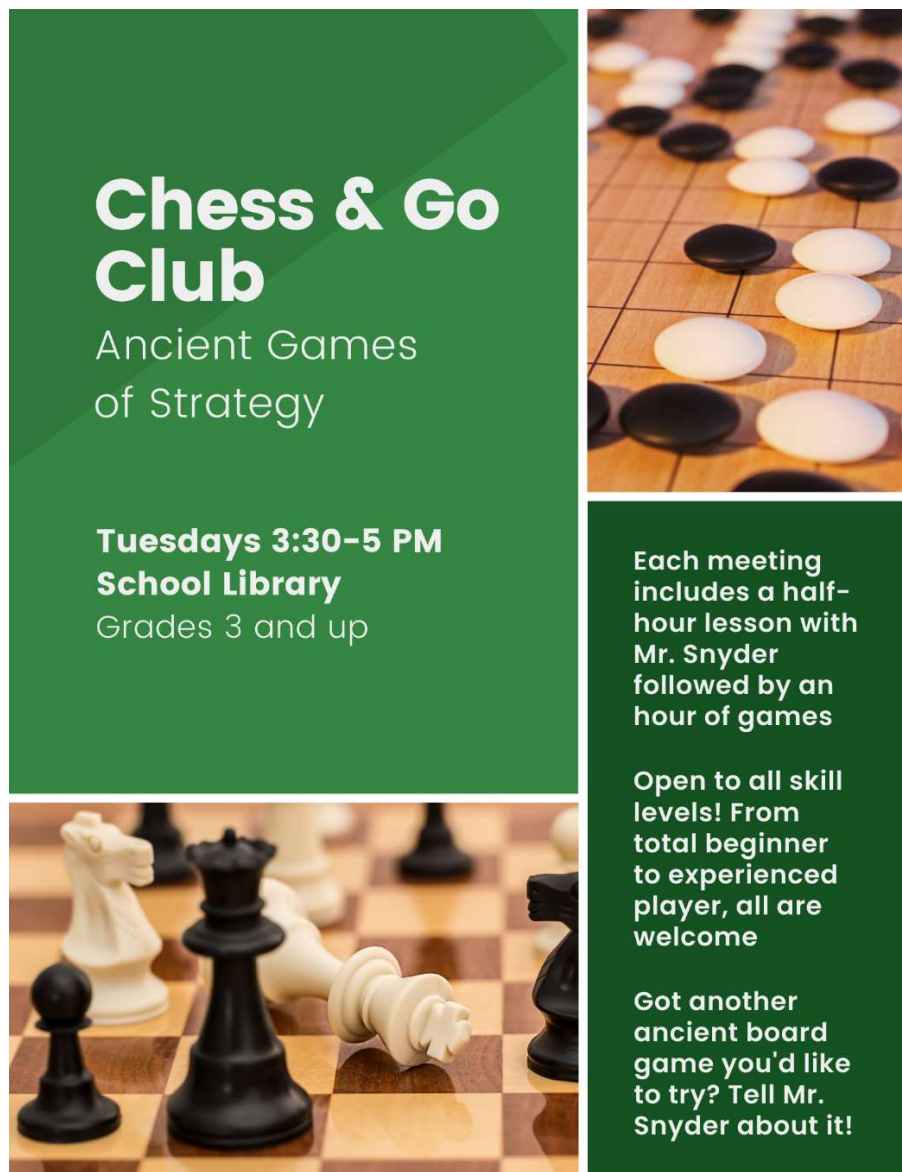
The beginning date for construction has been moved to April 24th. Construction will take an estimated 2 weeks, so the playground could be reopened by the week of May 8th, but we'll see how things go! Once we have a clearer idea of the extent of the construction equipment, we will update end-of-the-day pick-up procedures as needed. We are hoping to be able to proceed as we did when the retaining wall was being installed.

Gala Update

Many thanks to all those that have been working hard to organize the St. Thomas Auction at Weber's next Friday, as well as to those who have generously donated time, items, and money to furnish auction items! I look forward to seeing you there for a great evening in support of our school!

Chess and Go Club – Beginning Tomorrow!

Mr. Snyder is starting an after-school chess and go game club. The first session will be Tuesday, April 18th. Please see the following flyer for further details. Sign-ups will be handled by Mr. Snyder (bsnyder@sta2.org).



Chess & Go Club

Ancient Games of Strategy

Tuesdays 3:30–5 PM
School Library
Grades 3 and up

Each meeting includes a half-hour lesson with Mr. Snyder followed by an hour of games

Open to all skill levels! From total beginner to experienced player, all are welcome

Got another ancient board game you'd like to try? Tell Mr. Snyder about it!