



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter April 25th, 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: Solicitude

- 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 28th

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

May 2nd

Mothers' Brunch: 9-10:30 a.m. (see below)

May 3rd

Dress-up/Leadership Day; May Crowning (see below)

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 9th-11th

Classical Learning Test - Grades 3-8 (see below)

May 16th

Middle/Upper School Science Fair (more details forthcoming)



Hope Clinic Visit

Last Friday, some of the 6th graders went with Mrs. Gavigan to deliver the school's food drive donations. The clinic estimated the total value of the donations at \$5,600!



9th-Grade Immersive Mission: Garment-Making

Just before Easter break, under the direction of Mrs. Susan Widawski, a professional tailor, the 9th graders, along with Mr. McCoy, finished up making confessional stoles. Each had to ask a priest and obtain his measurements. The results below are a testament to the great direction they received from Mrs. Widawski and to their patience and attention to detail! This was a mission that not only taught them a skill, but gave them a practical connection to the Church's sacramental and priestly life. This garment will play a part in the great priestly power of loosing sins!



Hiring Announcements

I am pleased to announce the hire of Miss Deirdre Cullen, who will teach 3rd Grade next school year! Deirdre is graduating from Hillsdale College this spring with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and English. Her membership in the invitation-only Honors program at Hillsdale gave her an especially rich formation in a liberal arts vision. She is passionate about forming young boys and girls in the beauty and truth of the Catholic tradition. Deirdre is excited to be working at the school of her family's parish, and I am looking forward to seeing her love and talent at work in the 3rd grade!



Mrs. Davignon is due in mid-May, and she will, sadly, not be returning next year. She will be greatly missed! She has done great work to reshape and develop the library for the school. I am very happy that this work can now continue under the direction of our newly hired librarian, Erin Deemer! Erin has already contributed much of her time and energy to the school, helping as a parent and a substitute. With her extensive homeschooling experience and knowledge of good literature for young minds, she will be able to carry on the work that Sarah has begun. Mrs. Deemer is excited to serve the school in this way, especially given the central role that quality reading plays in the classical formation.

Finally, this is the last week for Mrs. Ramos, our young 5's teacher in preschool. She has done a wonderful job this year and will deeply miss her students and the school community. We wish her all the best! To finish out the year, Miss Maria Lunik, a frequent substitute and ESP worker at the school, will serve as a long-term substitute, working alongside Miss Dalian to close out the school year. We plan on hiring a full-time replacement for next school year.

May Crowning – May 3rd

The month of May is the month of Mary. The school's May Crowning will take place right before school Mass next Wednesday (May 3rd). Each student is invited to bring one flower from home to present to Mary. Parents are welcome to participate as well!

Classical Learning Test (CLT)

With support from the diocese, I volunteered our school to pilot the newly developed CLT for grades 3-6. Additionally, I signed up our 7th-8th graders to take the CLT-8, designed for 7th-8th graders. This test was created as an alternative standardized assessment for classical schools, and the originally CLT, taken by 11th-12th graders, is increasingly being recognized and accepted by colleges and universities. We will not only be looking at how we do, but also at the usefulness of a test like this for future school years, including the upper (high) school. See <https://www.cltexam.com/> for more information about the test.

Mothers' Brunch – May 2nd, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

All mothers of St. Thomas the Apostle School are warmly invited to a Mothers' Day brunch, on Tuesday, May 2nd, from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall (immediately following the 8 a.m. school mass). A brief talk on "Living the Liturgical Year in the Home" will be given by Karen McClelland, St. Thomas mom of an 8th and 1st grader. Books, resources, and foods from around the Church's Calendar will be available. Childcare will also be provided! Please RSVP by Sunday, April 30th, using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAEAA2FA02-stthomas>

Online System/Internet Use Parent Meeting

I would 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

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.