



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter

May 8th, 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](#).

May 16th

Middle/Upper School Science Fair – Parish Hall, 9-3

May 18th

Celebration of Wonder (Art and Poetry Night): 6:30-8:00 p.m. (parish hall)

May 25th

Choir Concert: 6:30 p.m. in the church

May 26th
Jeans Day

May 29th
Memorial Day – No school

May 30th-June 8th
No hot lunches

June 2nd
8th Graduation and Awards Ceremony – after Mass in the parish hall

June 7th
Angel House Field Day – 1:00-3:00 at school

June 8th
Awards Day – after Mass in the parish hall

June 9th
Last day/Half day – All-school picnic at Southeast Area Park

June 12th
Report Cards Published



Congratulations to Our First Communicants!

A number of students from our 2nd grade received First Holy Communion this past weekend, many of them on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the 106th anniversary of Our Lady's first apparition to the 3 children, who ranged from 7-10 years of age. I reminded the students today at assembly that, just as our Our Lord chose to use children for this great work and message, so He calls them to holiness and witness, especially in and through Holy Communion!

Declamations Contest

This morning at assembly, I announced the winners of the middle and upper school declamation contest held last week. A first, second, and third-place contestant was recognized among the 5th-6th graders and among the 7th-9th graders. Congratulations to the following students:

5th-6th Grade Competition

1. Teresa Deemer – The Gettysburg Address
2. Ella Meinhart – “Macavity: The Mystery Cat” by T. S. Elliot
3. Luke Eustice – “The Yellow Violet” by William Cullen Byrant

7th-9th Grade Competition

1. Aidan McClelland – The Gettysburg Address
2. Julian Magenau – “This Day Is Called the Feast of Crispian” by William Shakespeare
3. Paul Restuccia – The “Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat” speech by Winston Churchill



From the Headmaster – Parent Technology Meeting Summary

Last Tuesday, parents, Mr. McCoy, and I had a fruitful discussion concerning the use of technology at school and home. The FACTS system will provide parents the ability to interface with grades, payments, homework, etc. all through one account. This system should provide teachers and parents with a more convenient and more consistent means of communication.

Student access to the Gmail app under the “sta2.org” Google account will be disabled at the end of this school year. This will eliminate a major liability and monitoring

issue for the school and for parents. Students will still be assigned a unique “sta2.org” account that will allow them to access Chromebooks, docs, slides, and classroom, as needed.

As a school, we want to use technology well, as a tool among other tools. Given the current challenges of internet use, this will require clear limits and discipline, both at school and at home. You can read more about the general relationship between the classical approach and technology in my “Classical vs. Conventional” piece, now posted at <https://sta2.org/school/what-that-means/>.

Parents at the meeting expressed interest in providing school parents with additional support and information regarding technology use at home. This is something that we will begin to provide this fall. Going forward, it will become increasingly important that the home and school approaches to using the internet be coordinated.

Upper (High) School Feedback Survey

I have created a survey to gather feedback from school parents, both those of 9th graders and those of students in PreK-8, on the current upper school and its future. This is a new and ongoing endeavor for our school community that will take a number of years to really flesh out. I would like to gather input from parents – perceptions, impressions, thoughts – that can help us to get a sense of where we stand one year into the project of growing a high school. If interested, please fill out the following survey by June 2nd:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PZgtIIYoYYliINMiEJJ4mK6EJbt3_n_b5oLIZYe7RRg/edit

End-of-the-Year Awards

This year, the following awards will be given at ceremonies held in the parish hall. Please note that the 8th graders will be dismissed following the June-2nd graduation and awards ceremony. This means that their last full day of school is June 1st.

For each grade K-4 (given on June 8th):

- 1 student vocation award, given to the student who best exemplifies answering the call of being a student
- 3 academic excellence awards, with various subject-area strengths noted.
- 1 Choir, 1 Art, 1 P.E., and 1 Spanish award

For each grade 5-7 (given on June 8th):

- 1 student vocation award, given to the student who best exemplifies answering the call of being a student

- 1 academic excellence award, with various subject-area strengths noted (among the 6 subjects that factored into honor roll). This award highlights one student among those who consistently made honor roll.
- 1 Choir, 1 Art, 1 P.E., and 1 Spanish (5th only) award

8th Grade (given on June 2nd):

- 2 spirit awards: Leo Wagner (8th-grade boy) and Kathleen O'Brien (8th-grade girl) – please see attached descriptions for each.
- 1 academic excellence award, with various subject-area strengths noted (among the 6 subjects that factored into honor roll). This award highlights one student among those who consistently made honor roll.
- 1 Choir, 1 Art, and 1 P.E. award

5th-9th Grades (given on June 2nd or 8th):

- Students will receive honor cords for their overall grade average through the first three terms.

Mothers' Brunch Resources

Karen McClelland has graciously provided a bibliography for her talk on May 2nd. Please see the attached book list for observing the liturgical calendar in the home!

St. Thomas 2022-2023 Yearbooks on Sale!

Hardcover yearbooks are now available for purchase at \$25 per copy. Payments can be made via eFunds or check. Orders will be accepted while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. Yearbooks will be distributed on Thursday, June 1st.

