



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-9 School Newsletter June 5th, 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



~ Events Calendar ~

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

June 6th

Angel House Reward Day – 11:15-3:00 at Island Park

Upper School Survey Follow-up Town Hall – school library, 7 p.m.

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 (9-11 a.m.)

June 12th
Report Cards Published

June 22nd
Last day for summer office hours until August



From the Headmaster

Today at our last assembly of the school year, I spoke to the students about the importance of gratitude. I certainly would be remiss if I didn't practice it myself as this school year closes! I am deeply grateful for the welcoming and faith-filled St. Thomas community, which has made the transition for me and my family a blessed and supported experience. It has been an honor to serve all of you this year, to get to know you and your lovely children. There is so much at this school for which to be deeply grateful to God, so much good that He has bestowed on all of us in His mercy!

Most of the goodbyes we have to say will only be for the summer, but some are more permanent. We already miss Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Ramos, Mrs. Davignon, and Miss Schubert. We will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Patyi and Mrs. Raney, though Mrs. Raney hopes to be back in some type of part-time capacity (TBD). I am truly thankful for all these teachers' work in service to the school and students!

Finally, many thanks to Miss Lunik, Mrs. Lynch, and Mrs. Deemer for filling in for the preschool, library, and 3rd grade (respectively) as we close out the year!

God bless your summer, and I look forward to seeing the students again in August!

Summer Work!

Some of you will be contacted individually by teachers about your son or daughter needing to do some extra work this summer to be ready for next school year. Please look for those communications (if they haven't already been sent) via email sometime this week.

Additionally, I gave all of the students at assembly some summer homework. First, I asked them to pick a consistent time every day to pray. Second, I asked that they try to read at least five good books over the summer. Please see the attached reading lists – both the "Headmaster's List" and the "St. Thomas K-8" list that can serve as a good starting point for finding some good reads, in addition to whatever their teacher might have assigned them!

Dates to Note for August

Please note the following dates as we look ahead to the beginning of next school year:

- In-service for teachers begins the week of August 14th; the school office will be open the week prior, beginning on August 7th.
- All teachers and staff will be participating in an Active Shooter Training offered by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department on August 16th as part of the school's efforts to update its safety procedures, navigate a tricky building setup, and better coordinate with the parish in response to potential threats. I have been through this training 3 times, and I have found it effective in helping teachers think realistically about various scenarios and their potential responses to them.
- Our back-to-school picnic is currently scheduled for August 18th from 4 to 7 p.m. at Southeast Area Park.
- First day of school is a half day on August 22nd!

Hiring Announcement

I would like to welcome Patrick Lennon as our new middle- and upper-school Latin teacher. He is a recent graduate of Benedictine College, where he majored in Theology and Philosophy. Additionally, he is an avid student of Latin and is looking forward to advancing our 8th through 10th graders in the Latin language next school year. His family are parishioners at St. Thomas, and Patrick is excited to serve his home parish as he moves back to the area. I look forward to working with him after he returns from his mission trip serving the poor in Denver this summer!

End-of-the-Year Events

Here are some (review) notes on this busy last week of school:

- 1) Mr. Miller is working hard to organize a fun afternoon of competition for the students on June 7th for our Angel House field day at school.
- 2) June 8th is awards day for the K-7 in the parish hall – parents certainly welcome! That is also cleaning day. I am instructing teachers to have students take all trash home – so there might be some full backpacks coming your way!
 - a. **On that note, please take a look at our growing inventory at our lost-and-found store, located next to the gym entrance down the entrance hall. You might find the shoes/coat/belt/shirt/pants that**

**your son or daughter has been missing these past 6 months.
Please note that all items remaining after the close of school will
be bagged and donated.**

- 3) On June 9th, everyone, parents included, is invited for an end-of-the-year school gathering at Southeast Area Park in Ann Arbor (on Ellsworth Road). Students are to come directly to the park that day, beginning at 9 a.m. Teachers will be present to watch students. **Please note that this ends at 11:00 a.m., not noon.**
- 4) Report cards will be available for viewing by 3:00 p.m. on June 12th. This is to allow for teachers to log grades for the 9th graders, whose finals end on June 6th.

Upper (High) School Feedback Survey/Town Hall

Thank you to the 25 parents who responded to the survey!

As a follow-up, **we will be having a town hall discussion about the survey and upper school on June 6th at 7 p.m. in the school library.** This will allow for Mr. McCoy and me, in light of the survey feedback, to present further explanations and clarification and to listen to and consider parent input as we proceed into next school year.