



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas K-10 School Newsletter October 16th, 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: Faith

- Assenting, through grace, to God's revealed truth

Virtue for Margaret Mary Term: Truthfulness

- Telling the truth when one ought, as one ought



~ Upcoming Events ~

October 17th

School Pictures

EF School Mass Parent Follow-up Meeting, 2:30-3 p.m., school library (see below)

October 23rd-24th

No school: ICLE Training Days for Teachers

October 25th

Upper (High) School Meeting for Parents, 2:15-3:05, School Library (see below)

Lunch Orders for November Due!

October 27th
Last Day of Margaret Mary Term

November 1st
All Saints' Day - No school

November 3rd
No school: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

November 9th
Wine, Cheese, and Poetry Night, 7:00-8:15 p.m., school library (see below)

November 10th
Turkey Trot

November 14th
Upper (High) School Open House, 7:00 p.m.

NEW DATE: December 12
Art, Poetry, and Music Night, 6:30-8:00 p.m., parish hall (see below)



Fall Festival



📷 PORTRAIT



From the Headmaster

Many thanks to Pia Gavigan and our parent volunteers for all the work they put into organizing our fall festival! The students had a wonderful time, and the weather cooperated for the whole time.

Last week, our parent night on technology was a great success. Mike Hanley presented to around 35 parents on various strategies on healthy technology use at home. Mike was able to draw both from his 20 years of experience in the tech industry and from his own home culture to offer a number of constructive points and questions to ponder. His presentation was followed up by a lively discussion and a number of great point and questions for thought. All-in-all a great experience, I believe, for our parents, and something that I hope can foster further conversation. Mike has graciously put together a resource document for further reading and references, which I am attaching to this email and which we also hope to post on the website. He also asked me to share his email (hanleym44@gmail.com) for parents interested in further support or another chance to talk in person, something the school and Mike would be happy to facilitate if there is interest! Thanks again to Mike for putting this together, to Mr. Mileski and our middle-school girls that ran childcare, and to the parent association for providing refreshments and clean-up!

Next week, I look forward to spending time with our classroom teachers and fellow schools St. Mary's (Williamston) and Resurrection (Lansing) under the direction of ICLE. This will be a chance to have further conversations and participate in more reflection on our identity as a classical school.

Dress-Code Reminder

As a reminder, sweatpants or other non-jean/khaki/skirt wear are not allowed on dress-down days. Please see the dress code for more details. Please also recall that shoe-wear should come no higher than the ankle-bone. Most boot-style shoes won't be compliant because of that height restriction.

Lunch Orders for November

Lunch ordering for November is now available via the FACTS portal. All orders need to be submitted by October 25th.

Report Cards

As we near our first go-around with using FACTS for report cards, please be sure to be active on your family portal. We are working on making the publishing of report cards as smooth as possible!

Security Assessment Follow-up

I recently received the report from Sgt. Eugene Rush from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. While this report is confidential, I will be sharing with parents our updated security procedures and rationale in light of his input. Stay tuned for further information.

New Date – Art and Poetry, Choir Concert / Choir Update

We had originally scheduled our art and poetry night in mid-November and our choir concert in mid-December. Both of these dates have been removed from the calendar. There is now only one evening scheduled, combining art, poetry, drama, and music, on December 12th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Not only will this cut down on commitments during an already-busy time of year, but it also accommodates the fact that we currently do not have a teacher to replace our current long-term substitute, Mrs. Setterholm, who will only be with us through the end of the first term. I have had a number of leads of the summer and into September, but all of them have fallen through for one reason or another. As we pray we find someone to continue choral music class at the school, something that is an integral part of our classical curriculum, I am working with the faculty to come up with a “plan B.”

EF School Mass Parent Follow-up Meeting

Tomorrow, October 17th, from 2:30-3:00 p.m. in the school library, I will be in the school library to meet with any parents interested in giving feedback on EF school Mass and in hearing about our current plans going forward. Fr. Bill will be out of town, but I am hoping that Fr. Gerald will be able to make it.

Wine, Cheese, and Poetry Night – Nov. 9th, 7:00-8:15

Please join me in the school library for wine and cheese as we enter into an evening of “leisure” and read and discuss the poem “God’s Grandeur” together. This will be a chance just to allow our minds to play over the meaning and beauty of a poem, precisely the activity of the mind towards which we are leading our students. No preparation or reading beforehand is required. Come experience an evening to pursue something beautiful together and see firsthand what we mean by “classical education”! I am currently working on providing babysitting once more; stay tuned!

Moms' Social Night



Come meet with other St. Thomas moms on Friday October 20th at 7:00 pm at the St. Thomas Parish Hall for a social night and recipe exchange! Our theme will be "School Survival Meals." Please email Emma Sauter (sauterrn@gmail.com) or Megan Dimattia (megandimattia@icloud.com) with one of your go-to weeknight meals, or lunchbox ideas (a link to the recipe would be great). We will compile into a packet to share. Please also consider bringing an appetizer or dessert to share! Don't have a recipe to share? Come anyway!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4AA8A92BA5F94-44785992-stthomas>

Upper (High) School Parent Meeting – Wednesday, Oct. 25th

All school parents are invited to attend a meeting specifically focused on updates and information about our upper school. The meeting will begin at 2:15 p.m. with a Divine Mercy Chaplet in the school chapel and proceed to an overview and discussion session in the school library. The purpose of this meeting is as follows:

- To join in prayer for the upper school
- To hear about specific highlights, trends, and stories among the 9th-10th graders
- To see the latest overview of thoughts for next year and the “bigger picture,” including our place in the broader diocesan picture
- To hear about our upper school November open house and plans for promotion
- To propose thoughts, feedback, or questions

Your support and input are of great importance to the continued development of a full PreK-12 school. Thank you for making an effort to attend!