



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### *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 Nicholas Term: Patience

- Bearing evil with an equal mind



### ~ Upcoming Events ~

January 19<sup>th</sup>

**Last Day of Nicholas Term**

January 25<sup>th</sup>

**Parent Meeting on the Upper School, school library, 7:00 p.m. (see below)**

January 26<sup>th</sup>

**Report Cards Published; Dress-Down Day**

January 29<sup>th</sup>-Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**Catholic Schools Week (more info coming next week)**

February 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Registration Due for Returning Families**

SAVE THE DATE: February 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Special Presentation: Zach Good, 6:30-8:30 p.m., parish hall**



## From the Headmaster

We had another successful open house today, with 6 interested families visiting this cold morning. Thanks for continuing to spread the word about St. Thomas the Apostle. As a reminder, referring families can receive a \$750 tuition credit if the family they referred ends up coming to St. Thomas next school year.

Trivia Night this past Saturday was a resounding success, with 16 tables in competition for the most points (my table came in a very respectable 4<sup>th</sup>). Our crowd of over 100 participants was a great mix of school families and people from the wider parish community. Many thanks to Ruth Atzinger and Sarah Meinhart, who put in a lot of work to make this happen. Thanks also to Caroline Biskner, supporting from the parish side, along with our parent volunteers and sponsors! I also want to specially acknowledge our student volunteers who served during the evening. I was very much impressed by their attentiveness, care, and readiness to help! They represented the school extremely well. We will let you know what the final numbers raised for classroom libraries and school beautification are once we have them in.

We are seeing very cold temperatures this week. Since we do not rely on busing, we do not need to close school for sub-zero wind chills. However, we will be letting the students in right away at drop-off, and all recesses will be indoors until it warms up. Please be prompt at dismissal so no one has to wait very long out in the cold!

## Zach Good Talk – February 13<sup>th</sup>

I have been advertising this since late November and have talked about it before in the newsletter, but **I want to once more highlight this upcoming event and request that each family make a point of being represented.** Zach Good, a graduate of Hillsdale, is a long-term dean and teacher at Sacred Heart Academy in Grand Rapids. He was heavily involved in developing the vision and curriculum of the school as it switched from being a conventional parish grade school to a classical

Catholic PreK-12 school. Thus, he will be able to offer a uniquely valuable perspective on the dynamics of growing a classical PreK-12 school. The evening will begin with a social hour from 6:30-7:00, followed by his talk and a question-and-answer session. This will be a prime opportunity for our school community to reflect on our own identity and growth in light of the perspective of a person and school who have travelled a similar road to what we are working to follow.

### Meeting on Upper School – Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

All school parents are welcome to attend a meeting in the school library with me and Mr. McCoy to hear about the progress and updates for the upper (high) school, as well as to offer questions and thoughts for us. This will be a great chance to hear, from our perspective, how things are going for the students, to hear about expectations for next year, and to offer further questions and thoughts, which we greatly value! I look forward to seeing you there!