



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter January 22nd, 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 Scholastica Term: Friendliness

- Acting in a becoming manner towards others



~ Upcoming Events ~

January 25th

House Winner Award Day

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

January 26th

Report Cards Published; Dress-Down Day

January 29th-Feb. 2nd

Catholic Schools Week (see below for schedule)

February 5th

Registration Due for Returning Families

February 13th
Special Presentation: Zach Good, 6:30-8:30 p.m., parish hall

February 14th
Ash Wednesday

February 16th-19th
Mid-Winter Break



Nicholas Term Virtue Award Winners: Patience
Congratulations to the following winners from each class!

- K: Lucy Schultz
- 1st: Mary Atzinger
- 2nd: Hadrian Robers
- 3rd: Xavier Sharp
- 4th: Ambrose Lee
- 5th: Henry Sauter
- 6th: Clare Moilanen
- 7th: Serena Jeyaraj
- 8th: Charlotte Hanley



Congratulations to Gabriel House!

Gabriel House, the Nicholas Term house winner, will receive a dress-down day, treat, and extra recess this Thursday, January 25th.

From the Headmaster

The third-term stretch can certainly be a challenge for students and teachers alike. As we enter Scholastica Term, my prayer for everyone will be an extra outpouring of grace for perseverance! It is also a time for new endeavors. The boys recently closed another successful basketball season, showing admirable grit and improvement over the course of the season! The girls are starting up their season this week. Drama club and MSO are also getting underway, while chess club continues.

On this anniversary of Roe v Wade, I reminded the students of the importance of the rosary as a weapon in the fight to defend life in our country and in our state. As we approach Lent, we will have a great opportunity to offer extra sacrifices and prayers for the cause!

Catholic Schools Week

The following is the schedule for the week:

- **Monday, Jan. 29th:** All-school rosary during assembly – parents welcome!
- **Tuesday, Jan. 30th:** Teacher Appreciation Day – student thank-you cards due (see email from class parents or from me)
- **Wednesday, Jan. 31st:** Parent Appreciation Day – student thank you's coming your way!
- **Thursday, Feb. 1st:** Household competition/play day – special session in the gym
- **Friday, Feb. 2nd:** Candlemas – Candle-light procession to begin Mass; treat at lunch; staff v. students basketball, 2:15 p.m. in the gym

Zach Good Bio

Here is more background on our speaker on February 13th:

Zachary Good has been teaching and developing curriculum in classical schools for over 15 years. A graduate of Hillsdale College in Classical Studies and English Literature, Zach formed the educational philosophy, faculty culture, and curriculum that helped transform Sacred Heart Academy, a dwindling parochial elementary, into a thriving K-12 classical academy with over 400 students. After a decade of hiring, training, and mentoring teachers as Dean of Faculty and Curriculum, Zach began work in 2022 as the Apprenticeship Director of the John Henry Newman Institute, an organization which aims to encourage and strengthen the Catholic classical renewal. He oversees the domestic teaching apprenticeship program and

personally leads the international cohort from Uganda. In spite of his administrative and consulting work, Zach has never left the classroom. Having taught a variety of humanities, trivium, and Latin courses in 5th-12th grade, he currently teaches high school history, literature, and philosophy. Zach most frequently speaks on authentically classical pedagogy, the development of the moral imagination, and contemporary challenges to formation of mind and heart. He lives with his wife, six children, and an ever-evolving homestead menagerie near Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Girls' Basketball Announcement

Girls' junior varsity and varsity basketball begins on Tuesday, January 23rd at 3:30pm directly after school. Practices and Games will be held on Tuesday through Friday, with games on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning February 1st. Any young ladies, 4th-8th grade are welcome to join! Please be prompt, as practice will begin at 3:30pm sharp.

Basketball shoes are recommended, but running shoes or athletic shoes are acceptable. Please bring appropriate gym clothes to change into for practice.

Any young ladies that are joining the junior varsity and varsity teams should understand that this is a four-day-per-week commitment, beginning Tuesday January 23rd and running through the tournaments, March 7-9 (junior varsity) and March 14-16 (varsity). We understand that other urgent things will pop up and students will miss practice and or games. Parents, please give the coaches as much warning as possible so they can plan accordingly.

On behalf of Coaches Hanley, DiMattia, Caldwell and myself, we look forward to coaching your daughters this year! GO IRISH!

Meeting on Upper School – Thursday, January 25th, 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!