



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter April 15th, 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 Boniface Term: Prudence

- Applying right reason to action in pursuit of the good



~ Upcoming Events ~

April 19th

St. Thomas Gala - Weber's Inn, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

April 25th

Art and Poetry Night, 6:30-8:00 p.m., parish hall

April 26th

Dress-down day

May 8th

School May Crowning – before 8:00 school Mass (info forthcoming)

CALENDAR UPDATE: May 10th Early Dismissal

**2:00 Early Dismissal for Drama Production at Arthur Miller Theatre, 2:30 p.m.;
7:00 p.m. Evening Performance (see below)**

May 16th

K-10 Choral Music Meditation, 6:30-7:30 p.m., church

May 27th

Memorial Day – No School

June 7th

Last day of school – 9-11 a.m. picnic (info forthcoming)



From the Headmaster

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather! Suddenly it feels like summer, though we have a large chunk of the Boniface term to cover yet. Let's all pray for the grace of perseverance over this final stretch, especially since we still have a number of important things to get to, not the least of which is our gala this Friday. I know that things are a little tight economically for some families, but even your simple presence at this event is a great support to our school and its community. Thank you!

I am excited to see what each class is able to present in art, poetry, and drama at our Art and Poetry Night next Thursday evening, which is a required all-school event. The evening gives the entire school community a chance to delight in the arts, a state of mind that is essential to a classical education.

I am also encouraged by the momentum we continue to experience in our enrollment, which currently stands at 159 for the PK-11 next school year, up 18 from our current PK-10 enrollment, with 14 currently enrolled for our 9th-11th grades. I am still fielding a number of inquiries, visits, and shadow days, so that number is still up in the air. We continue to attract people – both those already here and those moving to Michigan – that are looking for a parish and school that are fully committed to the Faith and to the classical model.

Today at assembly, I told students the story of St. Boniface, holding him up as an example of prudence. Boniface, born in England in 680 with the name Winfrid, was a talented teacher who could have stayed in his homeland and lived out a successful “career” among the monastery schools there at the time. Instead, he chose to undertake a mission of converting pagan tribes and shoring up the faith and Church in lands where each was weak. His efforts not only earned him the title “Apostle of Germany,” but also his new name “Boniface,” given him by Pope Gregory II, perhaps on account of the “good work” he had in hand.

Here was a saint who set out, alone, into the unknown, hardly knowing what to expect, leaving behind a clearly laid-out life path. This choice would hardly be deemed “prudent” by worldly standards or by the ordinary meaning we ascribe to that word. However, if we consider carefully its meaning – applying right reason to action in pursuit of the good -, we can perhaps see that “right reason,” the mind well-formed in the truth, doesn’t merely mean “being cautious,” especially when we consider that pursuing the good sometimes requires bold and decisive commitments, even those that involve great risk.

Standardized Assessments

We are in the midst of completing a few different standardized assessments. Students grades 2-10 are wrapping up the ARK Test (Assessment of Religious Knowledge), a test required by the diocese. Grades 1-8 will soon begin the third round of the NWEA, the results for which will be sent home at the end of the school year. At next week’s assembly, we will be announcing the award recipients for the National Latin Exam, which most of our 7th-10th graders took in March.

May 10th Early Dismissal/Drama Performances

We have been working with the Arthur Miller Theatre (also called Walgreen Drama Center) to clarify the logistics of the day. Before break, I announced that we would be dismissing at 1:30 to allow students and teachers to attend a 2 p.m. showing. **We will need to revise that time to a 2:00 dismissal for a 2:30 showing. This is not a required event, but I highly encourage students to come!** This is in lieu of having, as we did last year, a school-day performance for the student body.

Especially during the daytime, parking around the theater is very difficult to come by. For the 2:30 performance, parents can drop off students at the theater. We will arrange for teachers to chaperone students for the afternoon performance, which is free. Parents are also more than welcome to come, if they are able to find parking at

a nearby location. **The run-time is approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes, so if you are simply dropping off, please plan to be back for pick-up outside the theater at 3:50 p.m.**

For the 7 p.m. performance, we will be able to “reserve” the lot next to the theater (NC27). Attendants will be on hand to collect a \$6 fee to park anywhere in the lot. The evening performance will be ticketed at the door, \$5 per person.

I do apologize for the unforeseen logistical hurdles! I hope that many can make it out to see our middle and upper schoolers put on what I anticipate to be a great show of “The Lost Hat”!