



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter April 29th, 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 ~

May 1st

Dress-up Day moved to following Wednesday, May 8th

May 8th

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

Dress-up Day

Parent Association Meeting – 2 p.m. in parish hall

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)

NO ESP

May 16th

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

May 20th

Declamations Contest, Monday Morning Assembly, 8 a.m.

May 24th

Extraordinary Form School Mass

May 27th

Memorial Day - No School

June 7th

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



Art and Poetry Night

It was another wonderful show all around. Many thanks to teachers and students for making this a great evening for our school community. And a special thanks to Mrs. Mangan, on her “send-off” show! We will miss you!





From the Headmaster

As we continue to sift numbers for the gala, I can say our gross total for the night was a large jump from gross earnings last year. We're hoping to have exact numbers in the coming week. Our attendance of 114 was also the largest we've seen in a number of years. As our enrollment continues to grow, this money will provide a vital support to increased scholarship needs. As much as possible, we want to continue our commitment to making the school affordable for everyone who wants to come!

The month of May is the month of Mary, a beautiful time to specially honor her who has been our school's protector. On May 8th, students are invited to bring in a flower to place in front of the statue of Mary, which will be crowned before our school Mass in the church. We will be moving dress-up day to that Wednesday in honor of the procession and crowning. Parents are encouraged to join us and place a flower too!

May brings with it thoughts of the end of the school year and its many events. This year, there will be a few changes to our end-of-the-year observances. These changes, based on inter-faculty discussion, reflect the sort of emphasis and culture that we are pursuing as a classical Catholic school.

First, we will no longer have an 8th-grade graduation. As a growing PreK-12 school, it doesn't make sense to continue a graduation, since the 8th grade is now simply a transition into the next level of the school. Over the past couple of months, we have been actively bringing 8th graders into the life of the upper school by allowing them to experience its fraternity and missions. For example, the 8th-grade girls have been consistently visiting a home for elderly ladies as a service that fits perfectly with the sorts of pursuits we are looking to continue in the upper school.

Second, our end-of-the-year awards will be limited to a student vocation award for each grade, with the 9th and 10th counted as one group. This award will recognize the student who best exemplified the virtues, abilities, and qualities requisite for pursuing what is true, good, and beautiful. Within classrooms, teachers may decide, at their discretion, to give further, more specified awards. At our last assembly on June 3rd, we will be giving both the Boniface Term virtue awards and the student vocation awards. In the newsletter, I will also specially recognize students that made the honor roll for every term throughout the school year.

As a final note on the end of the year, I am beginning a Master's in Educational Leadership through Ave Maria University. This is a two-year program, mostly online, but requiring two in-person summer sessions, the first of which falls right

after school lets out in June. This means I will be gone from June 9th-21st. I will still be in contact via email, and Laura will hold down the fort – as she is apt to do! – at the school office, which officially closes on June 21st.

This week, I will also be gone tomorrow and Wednesday during the school day, as I am part of an on-site accreditation team at Fr. Gabriel Richard. It is typical for the diocese to have principals join these teams when a diocesan school is undergoing an official assessment. This will provide me with some firsthand insights into the process!

May 10th Play

Because the 2:30 performance will be a school-chaperoned event, we will be sending home permission slips this week for all students not already involved with the production. This will also give us an idea as to who will be attending. Our drama club has been working hard to put on a great show, and I hope many of our students will be able to see it, especially at a much friendlier venue for drama productions than the parish hall! This will be another great opportunity for our school to come together for the enjoyment of the arts. As a reminder, the 2:30 showing is free and open to parents as well.

As a note, as usual for early dismissal days, there will be no ESP on May 10th.

May 15th Talk by Karen McClelland

Ladies from the school and parish are invited to a talk, giveaways, and brunch the morning of May 15th, from 9-10:30. Our middle schoolers will provide babysitting in the school library. Please see the attached flyer for more details on this great way to connect with other ladies from the school and parish.

May 20th Declamations Contest

From our middle and upper-school history teacher Mr. Snyder:

Declamation is a genre of Ancient Roman rhetoric and a major part of higher education. Originating in ancient Greek rhetoric training, declamations used to consist of speeches of defense or prosecution in fictitious court cases and speeches advising a figure from history or legend on a course of action.

Today, declamations are generally organized as a contest (similar to a spelling bee) for memorizing great historical and fictional speeches, poetry, and monologues from our classical tradition. Miss Schoenle and Mr. Snyder have begun organizing declamation contests for their classes. The declamation

contest requires more than just memorization of the piece in question. Insight into the mood and meaning of the selection, voice, diction, and bodily action are all required to do well.

Students in the 5th-10th grades have already selected a piece to memorize. Classroom competitions will occur May 16-17. One winner from each class will be selected to compete at the all-school assembly on May 20th (beginning at 8 a.m. in the parish hall). The all-school competition will be broken down into 5th-7th grades and 8th-10th grades. Please consider coming to see this impressive part of our classical curriculum!


Parent Association Meeting

Please join us next Wednesday, May 8th, at 2 p.m. in the parish hall for our end-of-the-year PA meeting. I will be reviewing the updated parent association vision and guidelines (please see attached). We will also be looking at next year, particularly events requiring long-term planning (e.g. the Gala) and the kick-off picnic in August. Everyone is welcome!

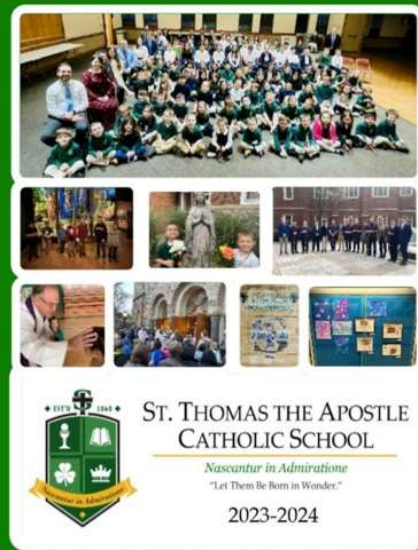
Yearbooks Now on Sale!

Parents can order the 2023-2024 yearbook using the QR code copied below (see also the attached flyer, which is available in the school office as well) and submitting your student(s) name(s) for whom you want one ordered. Each yearbook is \$25. Parents will be billed through FACTS only. Books will be distributed during the last week of May to those who have paid. We have a limited number available based on estimated sales, so we will sell on a first come, first served basis.

Scan the QR code to load the form.



If you cannot scan the QR code, please visit:
qrform.me/cdhe4vsb



The flyer features a large group photo of students and staff at the top. Below it are several smaller photos showing students in various school activities, including a choir, a student in a graduation gown, and students in a classroom. At the bottom, the school's logo is displayed, which includes a shield with a cross and a book, flanked by the years 1947 and 1982. The text on the flyer reads: "ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL", "Nascantur in Admirazione", "Let Them Be Born in Wonder.", and "2023-2024".

