



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admirazione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-10 School Newsletter May 28th, 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 ~

June 4th

Angel House Overall Winner Award Day

June 5th

Field Day, 1-3 p.m. at school

June 7th

End of Boniface Term/Last day of school - 9-11 a.m. picnic, Island Park

June 13th
Report Cards Published

June 21st
School office closes for the summer

August 7th
School Office Re-opens

August 16th
Beginning-of-the-year/Welcoming Picnic, Burns Park 4-7 p.m.

August 21st
First Day of School – Half Day



From the Headmaster

As we approach the end of the school year, I find it fruitful to look back over the year to see where we've come from and what we've come through. We began on the feast of Our Lady's Queenship and placed ourselves under her protection. The whole year was dedicated to more deeply understanding and developing the virtue of faith, by which we assent with our intellect and will to God and His revealed truth. In September, Our Lord graced the halls of our school with His physical presence during our Eucharistic Procession, and we experienced the graces of the archangels on Michaelmas, when we recovered the statue of the Holy Family. In October, we had the privilege of offering our first Extraordinary Form school Mass. Later that month, we had a wonderful fall festival, complete with animals and chalk art, and a great discussion on using technology safely at home.

Our Turkey Trot in November was enhanced with a balloon arch and a technology boost for tracking times. Later that month, parents were able to experience the beauty of poetry (and wine) during our wine and poetry night with Gerard Manley Hopkins. The middle and upper schoolers participated in the beauty of poetry as well, with the boys reciting the famous St. Crispin's Day speech from *Henry V* on October 25th, the anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, and girls reciting "In Flanders Fields" in November, close to the anniversary of the end of World War I. To begin a busy December, my daughter Genevieve was born on December 4th, while, around the same time, our robotics team qualified for the state competition. We

capped off the year 2023 with the performance and Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and our Art, Poetry, and Music night, which displayed a great variety of artistic talent and formation across all grades.

Trivia Night in January was a smashing success, raising important funds for our classroom libraries. We ended January and began February with a fun Catholic Schools Week, complete with our new, schoolwide household competition day, organized by Mr. Votel and Miss Schoenle, and another Candlemas Procession, with the upper-school schola chanting parts of the Mass, co-organized by Mr. Mileski and Miss De Long. In February, we were blessed with the presence and wisdom of Zach Good from Sacred Heart Academy. During Lent, we were blessed with a new approach to March Reading Month under the direction of Mrs. Deemer, capped off with a schoolwide literary trivia competition. The whole school also participated in our canned food drive, which collected around 1,900 items for Hope Clinic. Finally, the JV girls capped off a great season with an 8-4 record and a 3rd-place finish at the tournament, while MSO participants Serena Jeyaraj and John Lee qualified for the state competition in "Can't Judge a Powder" and a number of middle and upper school students took home awards for their scores on the National Latin Exam.

April and May, as usual, have flown by, packed with great things! Our gala was a wonderful time for parents and a great support to the school's scholarship fund. Our Art and Poetry Night was a highly enjoyable evening, with high quality recitations and drama, as well as an encore for our upper-school boys. It was also the evening when we could recognize Mrs. Mangan and her work for a final time. The drama club, under the direction of Miss Schoenle, put on an outstanding pair of performances, which were both well-attended by the school and wider parish communities. We enjoyed the beauty and heartfelt singing of the students under the direction of Miss De Long at our music concert, as well as the excellent declamations delivered at last week's assembly for a contest organized by Mr. Snyder.

And now, at the end of May, closing out the month of Our Lady, whose patronage we continue to solicit, we look forward to a summer rest! So many other wonderful things happened this past school year; indeed, it is difficult to capture the growth and challenges we witnessed in a summary. The most important level of it all is, of course, not often the easiest to see or measure, but I pray that you, as parents, are able to see a deep and lasting growth in your own children as you reflect over this past year.

Next Week and the Summer

Next week, as teachers are wrapping up their instruction and upper schoolers are finishing their finals, we will have some special events to close out the year. Next Monday, at our last all-school assembly, we will be giving out the virtue awards for Boniface Term, along with student vocation awards to students who best exemplify, in each class (with 9th and 10th combined) the discipline, love of truth, and habits necessary to fulfill the calling of being a student. Some teachers will also be giving out class awards in their own classrooms. Parents are encouraged to attend to see us cap off another great school year!

At next Monday's assembly, we will also be announcing the winner of the Angel House Competition. The winning house will receive a pizza lunch, dress-down day, and extended play time at Wheeler Park the afternoon of Tuesday, June 4th, from 1:00-3:00. The following day, Wednesday, June 5th, all students will be participating in field day, organized by Mr. Miller and held on campus from 1:00-3:00. Students will be allowed to dress in appropriate athletic wear for that day. Next Thursday is cleaning day! Students will be asked to bring their trash home, so be prepared for some full backpacks! Finally, next Friday, we will be gathering at Island Park, near the river in Ann Arbor, for our end-of-the-year picnic from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Teachers will be present to watch the children, but we would love for parents to come as well!

As we look ahead to the summer, here are some dates to keep in mind. We will be sending out supply lists for next school year in June. As a reminder, I will be gone from June 9th-21st as I begin another Master's program, but the school office will remain open through June 20th, Monday-Thursday from 8-1. It will reopen on August 7th, with the teachers officially returning on August 14th for in-service. Our back-to-school picnic is scheduled for Friday, August 16th, from 4-7 at Burns Park, and our first day of school is a half day on August 21st.