



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admiratione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Summer Newsletter July 25th, 2024

School Mission Statement

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Educated 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.



~ Upcoming Events ~

-Please see the attached Updated 2024-2025 School Calendar-

July 26th-August 16th

Family Divine Mercy Chaplet Every Friday (see below)

August 7th

School office re-opens

August 14th

Teachers back for in-service

August 16th

Year kick-off all-school picnic at Burns Park (4-7 p.m.)

August 21st

First day of school – half day, 11:50 dismissal

August 22nd

First All-School Mass

September 30th-2nd

No school – Labor Day weekend

September 5th

Back-to-school night for parents in the parish hall, 6:30-8:15 p.m.



From the Headmaster

August is almost upon us! On this feast of St. James, I pray your summers have been full of peace and forgetfulness of all things school-related! Between my Master's work, selling our house and preparing to move, and planning for the upcoming school year, my summer has certainly been full of many things, but also of continued graces and mercies from Our Lord for my family. I look with joyful expectation to the opportunity to be with the students once again and serve them as we embark upon another year of growth – now a PreK-11 school!

I also look forward to working with our faculty. I am currently pursuing some leads for the choral music position, so you can pray for the success of that search! Once that last faculty member is in place, I will update you on our faculty's roles, especially as things become more complicated with a growing upper school.

As we did last year, **I am asking each family to offer up a Divine Mercy Chaplet every Friday, beginning tomorrow, between now and the first day of school.** The most important thing we can do to prepare for the school year is to pray! We are in great need of God's mercy to help us as we embark on this great work in cooperation with the work of the Holy Spirit.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the back-to-school-picnic on August 16th at Burns Park in Ann Arbor from 4-7. This will be a great opportunity for new families to meet current families and for all families to meet our wonderful teachers.

Please find below various practical items to note for the school year.

Daily Schedule

K-11 drop-off at the school office entrance begins at 7:45 a.m. on Elizabeth Street. Mr. McCoy and/or I will be present to let students in.

K-11 pick-up is at 3:15 p.m. in the parking lot. Classes will be walked down to the playground area to meet parents/drivers.

Every Monday, we begin the school day with an 8 a.m. assembly in the parish hall. Tuesday-Friday we begin with an 8 a.m. Mass in the church. Parents are welcome to both!

Lunch for K-4 is at 11:15, followed by 5-11 at 11:40. Lunch ordering will begin in September. Choices and days will be announced in August.

Our after-school care ("ESP") will begin after Labor Day weekend. It is available to any school parent on all full school days from the end of the school day until 5:30.

First Day

As in the past, our first day of school will be a half day. This year, for half days, dismissal will be at 11:50 (instead of 11:40). After students go to their classrooms to drop off stuff and meet their teacher, we will have an all-school assembly in the parish hall at 8 a.m. Parents are welcome! On half days, students do not eat lunch at school.

Please have students bring in supplies on the first day, or at least during the first week of school. Please see the attached supply list originally sent out in June by Mrs. Steffy.

Dress Code

Please see the attached dress code guidelines (for K-8 and upper-school boys) and accompanying shoe pictures (for K-8). Guidelines for upper-school girls are being finalized and will be sent out separately. The guidelines from last year remain essentially unchanged. I do want to thank you for all your efforts to follow the code's requirements. Perhaps some of its stipulations can feel arbitrary or nitpicky, but I want to assure you that the intention behind it is to ensure a degree of uniformity while allowing for a versatility of options. This balance necessarily gets a little messy in application! But the overall goal remains: achieving a dress that is respectful of what we're doing in school, a dress that is "befitting," not distracting, divisive, or immodest.

Here are a few reminders worth noting:

- **Shoe guidelines – please read carefully. Shoes/boots passing the ankle bone are not allowed, nor are tennis shoes with multiple colors. Only girls are allowed to wear white shoes.**
- **Pullover sweaters – please read carefully. These do not include sweatshirts or hoodies, both of which are not allowed.**
- **Shorts/Skirts – please read carefully, particularly the length requirement (“no more than 2 inches above the knee”).**
- **Socks – please review allowed colors and lengths.**

Though you are not required to use them the Flynn O’Hara website (flynnohara.com) has all our uniform items for K-11, except upper-school girls. You can simply search for our school name, or use our code MI013.

Beginning-of-the-Year Meetings

All parents are asked to attend our Back-to-School Night, which will be held in the parish hall on Thursday, September 5th, starting at 6:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to hear about the upcoming year, to meet and hear from your child(ren)’s teacher(s), and to see the classrooms. The updated family handbook will be distributed that week as well.

Our first parent association meeting will be held early in the school year, before Labor Day break (date and time will be announced soon). This will be a great opportunity to find out ways to volunteer for the school and to learn about the main events and needs of the school.