



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admiratione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

September 30th, 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.

Virtue for the School Year: Hope

- Having a firm trust that God will help us be with Him in heaven

Virtue for Margaret Mary Term: Magnanimity

- Pursuing what brings great honor



~ Upcoming Events ~

October 1st

No School Mass, Rosary Instead - Fr. Bill at priests' convocation

October 2nd

No Dress-up Day - Transferred to Picture Day

October 4th

Extraordinary Form School Mass

October 8th
Picture Day – Dress-up Day

October 18th
Dress-down Day
End of Margaret Mary Term

October 24th-25th
No school: Teacher PD with ICLE

October 29th
Literature Discussion Night, school library 6:30-8:00 (details forthcoming!)

October 30th
School All-Saints' Celebration (details forthcoming)

October 31st
No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

November 1st
No School – All Saints' Day (holy day of obligation)

November 7th
Upper-School Open House, school library 6:30-8:00

Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:

<https://sta2school.flocknote.com/dashboard>

Please note: All STA parents have been uploaded into the STA Parent Association Flocknote Group. This is the database the PA Board uses to communicate with parents. To ensure that these emails land in your inbox and do not go into spam, please add mail@flocknote.com to your email address book or safe senders list. The last email sent from the STA Parent Group was Sunday, 9/29 reminding parents of uniform swap and spirit-wear sale.

You can contact Laura Hess if you have any difficulty receiving these emails as well.



Michaelmas Festival

Our first annual Michaelmas Festival was a great success! PreK-8 students received household shirts and competed in household teams in archangel-themed games designed and run by our lower- and middle-school teachers. Many thanks to the parents – Karen McClelland, Laura Hess, Michelle Schultz, Pia Gavigan, Angela Russ, Patricia Lengyel, Nate Roberts, Melissa Canzano, and anyone whom I might be missing (apologies if I am!) - that helped with organizing setting up, and contributing food for the festival.













4th Graders Visit Greenfield Village

Last Thursday, Mr. Creaser took his 4th graders to Greenfield Village to experience a way of life from a past American era. Many thanks to the parent drivers who made this great experience possible!



From the Headmaster

Last week, we summed up the ultimate purpose of education in the Catholic tradition, which, we found, was a high one indeed! We ended by asking how we avoid being lost in “ideas land” and not attending to the practical demands and expectations of living in this world. As we noted in our opening installment, there are typically a number of practical reasons for which we parents send kids to school, such as succeeding at the next level (high school, college), career-success, and socialization. Last week we talked about “integration,” which would entail that these practical goals could become meaningful parts of the whole formation we seek to hand on at school. But how is this to be done?

First, it is important to come back to the question of ultimate ends, which move us beyond practical concerns. If we do not have these in mind, even our practical, temporal pursuits can easily become disoriented and out of balance. It is in light of our transcendent end and our love of God that we are best able to sift the various demands and expectations of the world, which often clamor for a large chunk of attention and energy – both from us and our kids. As Catholics, we ought to be subjecting social expectations, including ones surrounding education, to fresh scrutiny in light of the Faith and its demands, rather than allowing social expectations to serve as our means to determine how “reasonable” and livable the demands and teachings of the Faith really are. It is precisely this scrutiny that can bring out their proper importance and reveal their true role in living a worthwhile life.

Second, practical demands, such as thinking about getting a good job, are never pursued in an isolated way. They are always part of a broader question of how we ought to and want to live our life. Society likes to translate this as a “lifestyle”; the Catholic tradition calls for something deeper: a culture, a way of life, informed by the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. We want students who are intellectually, morally, and emotionally prepared to live a life both truly human and truly salvific, and it is within *that* way of life that a person can thrive in his or her practical pursuits. On the one hand, if we are giving students only abstract ideas and religious sentiments, we are not helping them live their faith as something *incarnated*. On the other hand, if we are only leading them through various achievement milestones, even their achievements will lack any clear purpose or depth of meaning.

As we mentioned last week, our work is one that seeks a wholistic formation of *persons*; indeed, it is at the level of the person where we truly see the fruits of integration. When we find a person who is competent, joyful, self-controlled, perceptive, personal, alive to his or her responsibilities, and, above and in all these things, committed to God, we can see and experience that something has really

“come together” in this individual. He or she becomes a living witness to a formation in love and wisdom, which, in a sense, sums up everything else, including practical pursuits.

All of the above, I think, requires us to weigh carefully our various priorities as parents. We want so much for our children to succeed in life at all levels, but it is all too easy to allow success in this world to consume most of our and our children’s focus and energy. There is, after all, so much to be done to prepare for the “next level.” Lately, in some Catholic education circles, it has become common to speak of “forming saints” as the fundamental goal of a Catholic education. That is indeed a high ideal, and it ought to give us real pause. Am I as a parent prepared to truly sacrifice everything else – expectations, plans, desires – for the sake of helping my child become a saint? What does “success” mean in the life of a saint? What does it “look like” in actual examples? These will be our questions for reflection in next week’s newsletter.

Reminders

- Please turn in the signatory page for the family handbook, if you haven’t already. This was due last Friday.
- Instead of this Wednesday, the October dress-up day will be Tuesday, October 8th.
- Hot lunches begin this week, starting tomorrow. If you haven’t already, please consider helping out to serve lunch. Please see the sign-up sent out through Flocknote.
- Today was the last day for shorts until next May!

Upper-School Open House

Our open house for the upper (high) school will be held in the school library at 6:30 p.m. Please help spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the upper grades. We are excited to be adding the final grade next year!

Michigan Science Olympiad 2025!

There will be a short informational meeting (15-20 minutes) after school on Monday, October 14th in the school library. Students (and parents) in grades 6-9 are encouraged to attend. If you have a child interested in joining, please contact Emma Sauter or email MSO@sta2.org.

Literature Discussion Night (Oct. 29)

Miss Benz and Miss Schoenle, our upper- and middle-school literature teachers, will be leading a reading and discussion of a short piece of literature (selection TBD) the evening of Tuesday, October 29th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the school library. You may recall our wine, cheese, and poetry night last fall. This will be another installment in the series, complete with wine and cheese! I will be sending out more details closer to the event, but I want to put out the date now, in hopes of seeing many of you there!

Annual Asbestos Notification

As required by federal law St. Thomas reports annually to our community the asbestos abatement procedures that have been put in place for the few locations in our boys' and girls' locker rooms where asbestos-based materials are existent and appropriately abated. We have had our annual inspection with all necessary records maintained in our abatement manual which is always available for reference by all community members.