



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Nascantur in Admirazione*

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

## St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### *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 Scholastica Term: Obedience

- Promptly fulfilling the just will of a legitimate superior



## ~ Upcoming Events ~

January 27<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup>  
**Catholic Schools Week (see below)**

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee, school library, 8:30-9:15 a.m.**

February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Dress-up Day**

February 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Extraordinary Form School Mass**

February 11<sup>th</sup>  
**Fr. Bill Meeting, parish hall, 7 p.m. (see below)**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Trivia Night, parish hall, 6 p.m.**

March 20<sup>th</sup>  
**SAVE THE DATE - Dale Ahlquist Talk**

April 5<sup>th</sup>  
**SAVE THE DATE - School Gala**

**Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:**  
<https://sta2school.flocknote.com/dashboard>



## St. Thomas Uniforms at Sunday Mass!



## From the Headmaster

Our open house last Monday brought in 10 families, 6 of them new! Many of them expressed their admiration for and interest in the school. A number of visiting families were looking at our preschool, which has now become our new “feeder” for the grade school, with a number of current preschool families enrolling their children in next year’s kindergarten class.

As we continue to grow as a school, Catholic Schools Week is a perfect time to consider the great opportunity we have in our Catholic school, which is consciously seeking to offer something that has a distinct character and depth to it, starting in preschool and running all the way to 12<sup>th</sup> grade! The collective efforts of our teachers and parents are vital to developing this distinct character. We are, in a sense, blazing a new trail for our region, offering a full-time classical Catholic formation across 13+ years. I am thankful for being part of this effort and for the deep impact it is having on our students!

## February 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall, Fr. Bill would like to host school parents and non-school parishioners to give an update on the status of the school and the upcoming Saints and Scholars Campaign as we continue to grow into a full PreK-12 school next fall. He, our business manager Alicia Frenette, and I will be presenting on our current enrollment projections, staffing needs, budget, and financial status. The goal will be both to inform the school and parish communities about the progress and ongoing needs of our exciting endeavor and also to solicit volunteer support to further develop our outreach and fundraising efforts.

As we continue to develop through these transition years, it is my and Fr. Bill’s hope that a sense of cohesion can likewise grow among the school and parish communities and between them. This, we think, is vital for the long-term success of the school, which depends in so many ways on your support and that of the broader parish. I would like to encourage every family to participate in this meeting with our pastor.

## Catholic Schools Week: Schedule and Contests

### Schedule

- **Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>: All-School Rosary at assembly** – parents welcome!

- **Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day**  
 Parents will be contacted by class parents to facilitate student thank-you cards/letters for teachers and staff. These should be completed at home and brought into school on the 28<sup>th</sup>. **Schedule addition: Thomas Aquinas “Pilgrimage” starting at 2:20, hosted by the upper school, who will offer a series of vignettes from Aquinas’s life in classrooms on the middle/upper floor. Parents welcome!**
- **Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>: Parent Appreciation Day**  
 Thank-you cards coming your way!
- **Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>: Household Competition Day**  
 Students can wear household shirts and dress-down pants. Household competitions in the gym starting at 2 p.m. Parents welcome!
- **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>: Faculty vs. Students B-Ball**  
 Students can dress down. 6<sup>th</sup> graders (boys and girls) and up are eligible to play on the student team. The game will be at 2:00 p.m. Parents welcome!

#### Headmaster Contests

Participation in the following is optional. All submissions must be turned in at the school office by the end of the school day on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Picked faculty and I will determine winners for each contest, which will be announced at assembly on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The prize includes a dress-down day and treat at lunch.

- **K-2 Handwriting Contest:** Students will be provided copywork and will be judged on their handwriting and accuracy (text TBD).
- **3-5 Story Contest:** In 1-2 sides of a loose-leaf page, tell a story about a shepherd who finds a magic stone. Students will be judged on the basis of coherence (does the story make sense?), unity (does it have a clear plot and conclusion?), creativity, and writing quality.
- **6-8 Essay Contest:** 1-2 sides of a loose-leaf page: Write about a class or something learned at St. Thomas that has deeply impacted you or made you think in a new way. Explain what it was and how and why it impacted you. Students will be judged on the basis of the essay’s overall unity, coherence, depth of explanation, and writing quality.
- **9-11 Essay Contest:** Same guidelines as middle-school prompt.

## Reminders/Notes/Looking Ahead

- The winter round for NWEA testing has started and will conclude in early February. The spring session will open in April. As usual, results will be sent home at the end of the school year.
- Our next Monday Morning Prayer and Coffee will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m., directly after assembly. Come pray for the school, have a bagel and coffee, and hear from me on latest updates and conversation items.
- The diocesan deadline for financial aid applications is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Gala tickets go on sale beginning Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Don't forget to pre-register for Trivia Night (by 2/17), proceeds from which will go towards supplying a high school chemistry lab and helping to fund school library décor and book purchases.