



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nascantur in Admiratione

"Let Them Be Born in Wonder."

St. Thomas PreK-11 School Newsletter

February 18th, 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 ~

February 22nd

Trivia Night, parish hall, 6 p.m.

February 28th

Dress-down day

March 1st

Financial Aid Deadline

March 3rd-31st
March Reading Month/Food Drive (details next week!)

March 5th
Ash Wednesday

March 19th
Solemnity of St. Joseph – EF School Mass

March 20th
Dale Ahlquist Talk – gym, 6:30-8 p.m.

March 25th
Solemnity of the Annunciation – No School

April 5th
School Gala

Check out Flocknote for Parent Association Info:

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



From the Headmaster

We had a good turnout for Fr. Bill's meeting about the school last Tuesday, with a good mix of the broader parish and school parents. The recording and slides from the meeting can be viewed on the parish website: <https://sta2.org/church/from-the-pastor/school-update-with-fr-bill/>. In general, Fr. Bill and I emphasized the unique growth opportunity we have in having a full classical Catholic PreK-12 parish school in the Ann Arbor region. We showed that, in order to fully staff this endeavor, retain teachers, and pay them a more competitive salary, we will need to diversify our funding streams so as not to overly rely on the annual percentage cut from the Sunday offering. Through our endowments and the upcoming Saints and Scholars campaign, we are already making important headway in achieving that goal.

As we parents know very well, year in and year out, at the heart of our children's growth at school are their teachers. This is why I have emphasized the idea that, in many ways, the school is essentially a community of teachers that share in a common vision, work, and love. I am truly blessed to work with the community of

teachers we currently have, and I am eager to “complete the picture” and hire the remaining staff needed to graduate high school seniors next school year.

Thank you for your continued support, and for considering whether you might be able to be involved in supporting further marketing and fundraising efforts for the school. The former will be headed up by our new communications director and school parent, Cory Lakatos. The latter will be directed by Alicia Frenette, the parish business manager. We are looking for targeted, efficient, and thoughtful efforts that won't merely devolve into shallow activism.

Finally, I want to highlight the upcoming Gala on April 5th. Our plan is for the paddle-raise portion of the night to specifically target teacher salaries, with the remainder of the earnings (from auction items and sponsorships) to go towards student scholarships. Our scholarship fund has a solid grounding going into the spring, while teacher compensation has arisen as a pressing need. Our hope for this year's Gala is to increase the attendance of school parents, parishioners, and other supporters of the school. We are working to get the word out earlier and more widely. Thank you for passing along the invitation to people you know who may be interested in attending.

This is another gentle reminder that **financial aid applications are due March 1st**, which is the deadline established by the diocese to determine the aid they distribute to families. As a note, a family needs to have their enrollment packet submitted to be considered, both by the diocese and the parish.

JV Basketball Update

The girls JV basketball team started the season with a scrimmage and victory against the varsity team at St. Paul's Lutheran! Last Tuesday, they had a resounding win over St. Mary's Pinckney, 26-14. They were led by Ariel Sharp with 12 points and Mia Arambula-Chavez with 10 points, while the whole team combined for 21 steals! They hope to continue their winning ways this week with home games versus Washtenaw Christian (today) and SSA Ann Arbor (Thursday). Come join us! Go Irish!

School Calendar

Please see the attached tentative 2025-2026 school calendar. A few things will look different for next year. In order to avoid having to start as early as August 20th, I have adjusted a few things to begin with a full day on August 25th while still ending the first week of June. As you are probably aware, we are required by the diocese to

have 180 school days, which include half days and qualifying professional development days.

Gala Reminder

Tickets are now on sale! Please see <https://sta2.org/school/featured-events/greengoldgala2025/> for more gala information and links.

Trivia Night

Don't forget to register for **Trivia Night**, proceeds from which will go towards supplying a high school chemistry lab and helping to fund school library décor and book purchases. **Please see the following sign-up genius for food/drink donations:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084AA5A82AA46-55059523-2ndannual>

Bake Sale Supporting Our Robotics Team

A bake sale will be held after masses on Sunday March 30th to support our 4th-6th grade robotics team and their trip to the invitational in Boston this June. Parents can donate baked goods for purchase. Also, we have a general donation link if anyone would like to donate to Robotics directly: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/st-thomas-robotics-team>

Dale Ahlquist Talk, March 20th

Dale Ahlquist, celebrated author and speaker and, in Joseph Pearce's estimation, "the greatest living authority" on G.K. Chesterton's life and work, will be giving a talk at 7 p.m. in the school gym on Thursday, March 20th. Mr. Ahlquist co-founded the first Chesterton Academy, a classical high school in Minnesota, which is the flagship school of the Chesterton Schools Network. He will be speaking on "How to Create Complete Thinkers" at 7 p.m., followed by Q & A. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be provided. Attendees are welcome beginning at 6:30 to explore a selection of Mr. Ahlquist's books for sale. This will be another great opportunity for our parish community to deepen its knowledge of classical education.