

WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST

a century of Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • 1924-2024

April 14-18, 2025

Next week!

The virtue is **prayerfulness**: being still, listening, and willing to talk to God as your friend.

Monday, April 14 – LATE START (Teacher PD) – 9AM! Drop off begins at 8:45am.

- **Parent Rosary**, 8:15am, Nursery (Church basement)
- **All-School Mass**, 10:10am. Parents and guests, please sign in.

Wednesday, April 16 – 0-5ers Gym time, 11:10am, Gym

Thursday, April 17 – Stations of the Cross (performed by our 8th grade leaders), 10am, Church

Friday, April 18 – No school; Good Friday

Mark your calendar!

April 21 – No school

April 25 – First communion retreat

May 1 – May Crowning

May 5-9 – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5 – [Primary Educator series](#) (K-2nd grade), 8:30am

May 5 – Parent speaker series, Wait until 8th (see flyer). [RSVP](#).

May 7 – Kindergarten Kick Off, 9am (No P4 that day)

May 9 – Boosters Golf Outing. [Register to golf!](#)

May 9 – 7th / 8th Grade Dance (at IHM, more details to come)

May 12 – [Primary Educator series](#) (3rd-5th grade), 8:30am

May 18 – Middle school choir concert

May 19 – [Primary Educator series](#) (6th-8th grade), 8:30am

[2025-26 school year calendar](#)

School lunch!

Here is our [April lunch menu](#).

Order a yearbook!

If you didn't purchase a yearbook in the fall, there's still time. Use this [STA Yearbook order form](#) to buy one.

The deadline to purchase is April 18.

If you don't know if you purchased a yearbook, please contact Cammi in the school office (616-458-4228 or clawrence@stthomasqr.org).



Program Effectiveness Survey!

The Office of Catholic Schools is distributing the [Program Effectiveness Surveys](#) to all parents, staff, and students in grades 5-8 and 9-12. We will continue to alternate with the Catholic Identity Surveys next year. Please complete this survey by Friday, May 16.

March Safety and Security Update

March has been a busy month as your new Director of Safety and Security. So far, I've had the opportunity to:

- meet with a variety of school and parish staff to identify safety and security priorities.
- develop a quick reference, emergency response guide for the school and parish offices.
- work with the Technology Director to identify opportunities for new security technologies, such as cameras, access control and mass notification systems.
- perform security walkthroughs of the new ECC to identify security/safety needs.
- participate in the new School entrance relocation project.
- provide emergency response training as well as discussion scenarios for school staff meetings.
- forge new relationships with community partners, including Aquinas College, GRPD and Trinity Health.

I look forward to checking back with soon to share our progress in keeping Saint Thomas a safe place to grow in both knowledge and faith. ~Mr. Fey

Uniform reminder!

Students may now wear shorts and skirts without leggings. Please take a moment to examine skirt and short lengths. Skirts should be not more than two inches above the knee. We are noticing lots of short, short skirts.

Registration 2025-26!

Thank you to all who have completed the registration paperwork. To those who have not, submit ASAP to guarantee your child's seat for 2025-26. Preschool programming options are available now. Log into your Finals site account to make your selections. Questions?! Contact Betsy Edgerton or Cammi Lawrence in the school office.

Please note: If you have a preschooler, kindergartner and/or a 7th grader for next year, you must submit immunizations and health appraisal to be complete. If you are waiting for an upcoming well-child check up, upload old forms and we can help upload new ones as you get them!

Blackbaud Financial Aid!

The window to apply for financial assistance for the 2025-26 school year is open. Visit studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school and check out the [2025-26 Blackbaud Financial Aid parent application guide](#) and the [2025-26 parent instructions](#) to help.

Breaking bread, building faith

Family dinner-time discussion question of the week:

What is something you appreciate about a family member at this table?

State of the School

If you missed it, here is the [State of the School](#) reported by Principal Ryan Corcoran. If you have questions, you can submit them [here](#).

Corcoran's Corner

Check out this [Corcoran's Corner Kindergarten questions edition](#). Thank you to our wonderful kindergarteners for their great questions.



Strategic plan!

Wondering what's driving our planning? Check out our [strategic plan](#).

Traveling Rosary!

Our mission effectiveness team invites you to participate in our Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary. You can pray with your family while driving back and forth from school or pray a decade of the rosary each night. If you are interested, please use our [Saint Thomas Traveling Rosary Sign Up Genius](#).

From the Parish

Vacation Bible School dates are June 23-27, 9-11am. Get more detailed information about registration and program info on the parish website: <https://stthomasapostlegr.org/children/vbs/>.



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

summer programming

Join us this summer at Saint Thomas! Morning sessions for kids going into kindergarten - 2nd grade. Afternoon sessions for kids going into grades 3-5.



June 9-12

Soaring with Superheroes
9am – 12noon

Soccer
12:30-3:30pm



June 16-19

Around the World
9am – 12noon

Basketball
12:30-3:30pm



June 30-July 3

Launch to Space
9am – 12noon

Frisbee
12:30-3:30pm



July 7-10

Oceans and Water
9am – 12noon

Softball/Baseball
12:30-3:30pm



July 14-17

Exploring Dinosaurs
9am – 12noon

Soccer
12:30-3:30pm



July 21-24

Knights and Princesses
9am – 12noon

Basketball
12:30-3:30pm



July 28-31

Circus Spectacular
9am – 12noon

Frisbee
12:30-3:30pm



August 4-7

Farm Fun
9am – 12noon

Softball/Baseball
12:30-3:30pm

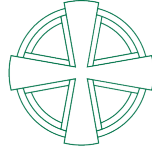


Registration

[Registration Form](#)
[FAQs](#)

Questions?

secretary@stthomasgr.org



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

The Primary Educator Series

At Saint Thomas, we recognize our parents as the primary educator of their children. Our faculty and staff are here to support you in educating, raising, and teaching your children. Guided by our mission of providing dynamic education centered in Christ, we work to support you in raising virtuous, wise, compassionate, responsible children who will one day bring their strong character into adulthood.

Join us for our Primary Educator series, where we discuss

- the joys and challenges of raising children
- parenting
- standing firm in our beliefs

These sessions will be led by Mr. Corcoran, Mrs. Johnson and a grade-level teacher. We will begin with a short presentation and then have time for parent discussion. Children are welcome.

This series will take place in the Ministry Center from 8:30-9:15 am.

Talk 1 - Parents of kindergarten through second grade - *May 5*

Talk 2 - Parents of third through fifth grade - *May 12*

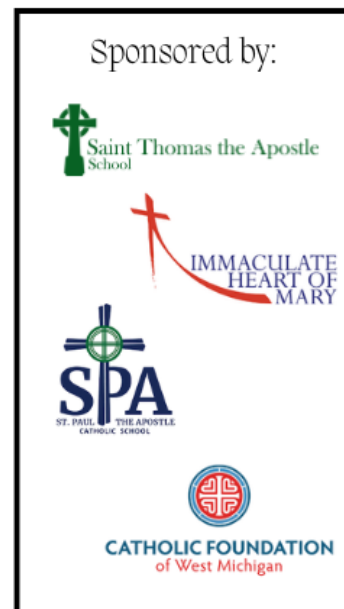
Talk 3 - Parents of sixth through eighth grade - *May 19*

Please fill out this [survey](#) to let us know topics you would like to discuss.

Calling All Diocesan Parents: Join Us for our Speaker Series #2
Renewing the Catholic Family



For the second speaker in our series, we welcome nationally-acclaimed Brooke Shannon, the Executive Director and founder of Wait Until 8th. Brooke works with parents and communities across the country to help families establish a healthy relationship with technology. She is a national speaker on how to parent in the digital arena, having appeared on the Today Show, Good Morning America, NPR and many other outlets. You don't want to miss this! Childcare available.



Save the date: Monday, May 5

6-6:30pm: Complimentary Wine & Appetizers
6:30-7:30pm: Presentation
7:30-8:30pm: Q&A, Conversation & Fellowship



Admission is FREE
but please RSVP



Cathedral Square: 360 Division Ave S, Grand Rapids, MI 49503