

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

May 5-9, 2025

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!

The virtue is **respect**: speaking and acting according to our own and others' rights, status, and circumstances.

Sunday, May 4 – First Communion Mass, 3pm, Church

Monday, May 5 –

- **Parent to Parent Series (K-2nd Grade)**, 8:30am, Ministry Center
- **Grades 1-3 Mass**, 10:10am, Church
- **Parent Speaker Series: "Wait until 8th"**, 6-8:30pm, Cathedral Square (360 Division Ave. S. Grand Rapids, MI). [RSVP](#). If you can't make it, you can join the [Wait until 8th livestream](#).

Wednesday, May 7 –

- **Kindergarten Kick Off**, 9-11am, Ministry Center **(no K, P4 or P3)**

Thursday, May 8 – Board Meeting (this is the **last Board meeting** of the school year), 6pm, Teachers' Lounge

Friday, May 9 –

- **Boosters Golf "FORE" Sports Golf Outing**, 7:30am registration. There's still time to [register to golf or donate!](#)
- **Grades 4-8 Mass**, 10:10am, Church
- **0-5ers Storytime**, 11:10am, Library
- **7th / 8th Grade Dance at IHM** (details in MS Newsletter)

School lunch!

Here is our [May lunch menu](#). Please note these lunch details:

- For the rest of the year, we are no longer offering doubles.
- The salad bar is available until May 23.

We ♥ our teachers!

Teacher Appreciation Week is

Monday, May 5 - Friday, May 9! We

are hoping to shower our wonderful teachers and staff with lots of love and appreciation for all they do for our children and school. One way we are planning to do that is with a luncheon on Wednesday, May 7. We need several volunteers and many items.

Please use our [Teacher Appreciation Sign Up Genius](#) to help if you can!

Thank you! ~ Genevieve Boyle,
Home & School president

Coffee treat!

Please consider bringing one of our teachers his/her favorite drink sometime during Teacher Appreciation Week. Use our [STA Coffee Treat Sign Up Genius](#). This is always a nice little treat for each of them!

Program Effectiveness!

The Office of Catholic Schools is distributing the [Program Effectiveness Surveys](#). Please complete this survey by Friday, May 16.

Mark your calendar!

May 12 – [Parent to Parent series](#) (3rd-5th grade), 8:30am
May 18 – Middle school choir concert, 5:30pm
May 19 – Field Day
May 19 – Dine & Donate @ Big Bob's Pizza in EGR (info to come)
May 19 – [Parent to Parent series](#) (6th-8th grade), 8:30am
May 21 – K-4 Spring Music Concert, 6pm
May 23 – Anointing Mass, 10:10am
May 26 – No school; Memorial Day
May 27 – Uniform holiday
May 30 – 8th Grade last day/last Mass, 10:10am
June 4 – Graduation, 6pm
June 6 – Last day/Half day
[2025-26 school year calendar](#)

Breaking bread, building faith

Family dinner-time discussion questions of the week:

- What is a gift God gave you this week?
- What kind of things do you think Jesus and Joseph did together?

Board Bio!

Michelle Anderson is a member of our Saint Thomas Education Board. Find out a little more about Michelle in her [Board biography](#).

April safety and security!

Here are some items to highlight the safety and security initiatives being explored and implemented in the past month:

- Forming a new partnership through Trinity Health for emergency first aid training for staff.
- Leveraging current technology to implement an additional, campus wide, mass notification system.
- Completing the security camera install and set-up for the new preschool building.
- Implementing a new first aid supply audit and replenishment system.
- Coordinating with GRPD to facilitate access to the building during an emergency.
- Updating emergency policies and procedures to comply with new “standard language” required by 2026 state law.

More to come in May as we round out the school year. I look forward to updating you one last time before we all head out for summer break. ~ Mr. Fey

Lunch Account Balances!

We have many families that have a negative balance in their students' lunch accounts. We need all families to check and submit funds to cover what they owe. Please add enough funds to cover your balance and for hot lunches for the rest of the year. Check out these [IC Instructions for adding funds to lunch accounts](#). As a school, we have a negative balance of nearly \$3,000. **We need to take care of this ASAP.**

Uniform reminder!

As we finish out the year, please be mindful of uniform holiday dress code. On a uniform holiday, students need to wear shorts/skirts that are an appropriate length. If students come to school out of uniform code, they will call home for a change of clothes.

Smart watches!

We are starting to see more smart watches in the building. Any wearable devices with screens that can connect to cellular or wireless networks are not allowed in school.

New kindergarten requirement!

Students entering kindergarten or the first year of school are required [Public Act 316 of 2023] to have dental assessments within six months of the start of school. If your child has had their dental check up this year and it was on or after February 21, 2025, please go back to your dentist and ask them to [complete this form](#). If you have your dental visit coming up before school begins, please take the form with you. The form must be submitted to the Saint Thomas office on or before August 21. For more information, please see this [flyer](#).

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. 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 checkup, 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 still 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.

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

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/>.

HELP Baby Supplies and Diaper Drive

Saint Thomas' Respect Life ministry is coordinating a Supplies Drive to support HELP Pregnancy Aid. Join us by dropping off disposable diapers (newborn, 1-2), new pacifiers, sippy cups and PJs (boys and girls, size 12 mo. and up) in the HELP collection box in the back of church from Mother's Day, May 11- Father's Day, June 15. Check out this [Amazon wishlist](#) for specific items. Call Helen at (616) 774-8471 or jimhelenmilo@gmail.com with questions. Thank you for your support!



Please join us
to support
Saint Thomas Athletics



FRIDAY, May 9
8:30am



The Mines
GOLF CLUB



Sponsors and foursomes are
needed to make this event
possible!

Click here or visit
www.STAGolfOuting.com



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.



Sponsored by:



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
of West Michigan

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



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 Parent to Parent 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.