

WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?



the

BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • est. 1925

Summer 2026

2026-27 School Theme!

This year at Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, our theme is **Created for Good**, inspired by Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."

Throughout the year, we will continually ask ourselves: What good is God asking me to accomplish? How can I do good in my classroom, in my family, and in my community? We will remember that the good we accomplish is not simply the result of our own efforts, but a reflection of God's purpose for our lives. We will also reflect on the truth that we are inherently good because we are created by God and loved by Him. This theme beautifully connects with our biennial fundraising event, [the Emerald Auction: Precious in His Sight](#), reminding us that each child, family, and member of our community is a precious gift from God, uniquely created for a purpose and treasured in His sight.

We invite you to join us on the evening of **October 3 at the Saint Nicholas Cultural Center** as we celebrate all the good God is accomplishing through Saint Thomas the Apostle School. Together, we will give thanks for our many blessings and continue to support the mission of forming young people who know they are created, loved, and called to do good.

Enjoy your summer! We'll see you in August!

happy
summer!



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, 2026-2027

Auction tickets LIVE!

Tickets for our 2026 St. Thomas Emerald Auction are LIVE. [Buy your tickets today!](#) This fundraising event celebrates all that makes Saint Thomas shine – our faith, our community, our passion. Learn more about our [Emerald Auction: Precious in His Sight](#).



Google Classroom!

This year, Saint Thomas the Apostle School will transition from Canvas to Google Classroom as our primary Learning Management System (LMS) for students in grades 3-8. Additionally, students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will no longer use an online learning management system.

Over the past six years, Canvas has been a valuable tool for our teachers, students, and families. However, we have found that K-2 families do not use Canvas enough to justify the time teachers spend maintaining course pages. At the primary level, direct communication through classroom newsletters, email, and other parent communication tools has proven to be more effective.

For students in grades 3-8, Canvas has provided access to assignments, resources, and online submissions. As we evaluated our needs, we determined that Google Classroom can accomplish these same essential functions while offering a simpler user experience and a more cost-effective solution. Google Classroom will be used primarily for accessing classroom resources, distributing assignments, and submitting student work.

Infinite Campus will continue to serve as our student information system and will remain the primary platform for parents to view grades, report cards, attendance, and missing assignments. More information about Google Classroom and how parents can interact with our new learning management system will be shared this fall.

We are confident that this transition will be smooth and will continue to support effective teaching and learning while helping us be good stewards of our resources.

2026-27 School Contracts!

You should have received your contract for the 2026-27 school year. If you did not receive your contract or have questions, please contact Cammi Lawrence (clawrence@stthomasqr.org). You must submit your contracts to receive a teacher letter in August.

New morning schedule!

This year, we are adjusting our morning start time. Rather than beginning the day at 8am, we will start chapel at 8:15am. This gives our teachers more morning planning time and puts us more in sync with the required minutes needed.

Preschool Schedule

8am – Preschool doors will open.

8:15am – Preschool begins.

11:15am – Half-day preschool dismissal

11:15am-12:20pm – Lunch Bunch

12:20pm – P4 PM begins

3:20pm – Preschool dismissal

K-8 Schedule

7:45-8am – Breakfast served in the lower level.

8-8:15am – Students gather on blacktop.

8:15am – Chapel begins. Students who enter the church after 8:15am will be marked tardy.

3:20pm – Dismissal

3:20-5:30pm – Hornets Nest



Looking ahead!

Aug. 3-7 – Homeroom teacher letters should arrive in the mail

Aug. 17-21 – Faculty/Staff return to school

Aug. 21 – Kindergarten Play Date in the Park, 10-11:30am

Aug. 24 – Open House, 4-6pm

Aug. 26 – First Day of School 1-8

Aug. 27 – First Day Kindergarten

Aug. 31 – First Day of Preschool

[2026-27 School Calendar](#)

STA summer camps!

Our 2026 Summer Camps for children ages 5-8 is happening! The camps are running through July 24, for kids ages 5-8. Camps are held at the Preschool Center. There are still spots available. Please use our [2026 Summer Camp registration](#) and review our [FAQs](#) for additional details.

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

- What is your favorite thing you have done this summer?
- What do you miss most about school?

Uniforms! Uniforms! Uniforms!

We have lots of gently-used uniforms on hand. If your child needs uniforms, consider stopping by the school to look through our uniform rack. Generally, someone is at the school Monday through Friday, 9am-2pm. But please call (616-458-4228) before you come to make sure someone is here to let you in. Thanks to Grandma Extraordinaire, Jamie McCabe, for organizing our uniforms.



Summer programs /events!

- [STA Parish Totus Tuus](#)
- [STA Feast Day Pig Roast](#)
- [Summer reading programs](#)
- [CC STEAM and sports camps](#)
- [WC Parent Guild Book Study](#)
- [Camp Brethren Heights](#)
- [GRA250](#)
- [Newman Reading List for K-12 Schools](#)

Year in review!

Check out these STA memories:

- [Corpus Christi Procession](#)
- [Boosters Video](#)
- [May Crowning](#)
- [Kindergarten Questions](#)
- [State of the School](#)
- [Spring Concert](#)
- [Merry Christmas from STA!](#)



  

 **SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE**
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SUMMER PROGRAM

Summer programming for kids ages 5-8
June 8 - July 24
Monday-Friday, 9am-12noon
Preschool Center: 1530 Fulton St. East
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Cost: \$150 per week
Taught by Brooke Imrick



FINE ART WORKSHOPS

WITH BETH JACOBSON

ST. THOMAS PRESCHOOL CENTER, 1530 FULTON ST. E, GR 49506

AGES 12 THROUGH ADULTS

JUNE	MONDAYS 6-8:30PM
6/8 WATERCOLORS	Summer florals
6/15 ACRYLICS	Summer Foods
6/29 DRAWING	How to start a travel sketchbook
JULY	TUESDAYS 6-8:30PM
7/7 WATERCOLORS	Birds & nature
7/14 ACRYLICS	Abstract Patterns
7/21 DRAWING	Everyday object & Shading

Follow the QR code to register!

**\$55 PER WORKSHOP OR PACKAGES
OF 2 (\$105), 3 (\$155), OR 4 (\$205)**



Questions: bethmariestudiogr@gmail.com

SUMMER ART CAMPS

WITH BETH JACOBSON

ST. THOMAS PRESCHOOL CENTER, 1530 FULTON ST. E, GR 49506

AGES 8-11: \$225

9:30AM-12:00PM

AGES 5-8: \$185

12:30-2:30PM

JUNE & JULY Mondays-Thursdays	Ages 8-11 (3rd -5th) 9:30am-12:00pm	Ages 5-8 (K - 3rd) 12:30-2:30pm
6/8-6/11 WATERCOLORS	Flowers & Nature	Flowers & Nature
6/15 -6/18 ACRYLICS	Picnic Foods	Fun Foods
6/29-7/2 DRAWING	Sports	Robots
7/6 -7/9 WATERCOLORS	Unique Animals (axolotls, capybaras & more!)	Unique Animals (axolotls, capybaras & more!)
7/13 - 7/16 ACRYLICS	Abstract Art & Patterns	Abstract Art & Patterns
7/20 - 7/23 DRAWING	Cartoon Characters	Cartoon Characters

Follow the QR code to register!

Ages 5-8 camps run after the STA summer camps, so sign up for both for a full day option!



Sign up 2 or more siblings, receive a \$10 discount per child!

Questions: bethmariestudiogr@gmail.com



Please note, if you have a student age 5-8, they can have more of a full day option. They attend both the STA summer camps (9am-12pm), stay for a lunch break (12-12:30pm), then attend an Art Camp (12:30-2:30pm) all at the preschool center! Please register separately using the links.