

WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • est. 1925

Sept. 14-18, 2026

Next week!

The virtue this week is **affability**: Being easy to approach and easy to talk to; friendly to others.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 –

- Eucharistic Adoration, 9am to 5:15pm, Church
- Parent Rosary, 2:45pm, Church
- Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm, Church

Wednesday, Sept. 16 – **THIS IS A UNIFORM HOLIDAY FOR PICTURE DAY. MASS ATTIRE IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS MASS DAY.**

- Mass, 8:30am. This is a uniform holiday for pictures.
- Picture Day, begins after Mass

Thursday, Sept. 17 –

- **Preschool Picture Day**, Preschool Center
- **8th grade retreat**. Please pray for our 8th grade leaders as they embark on their Leadership Retreat.

Friday, Sept. 18 – **8th grade retreat**. Please pray for our 8th grade leaders as they complete their Leadership Retreat.

Saturday, Sept. 19 – **5th Grade Parent Party @ the Szymanski home**. All 5th grade parents should have received an email with details. If you did not receive an email, please contact the office.

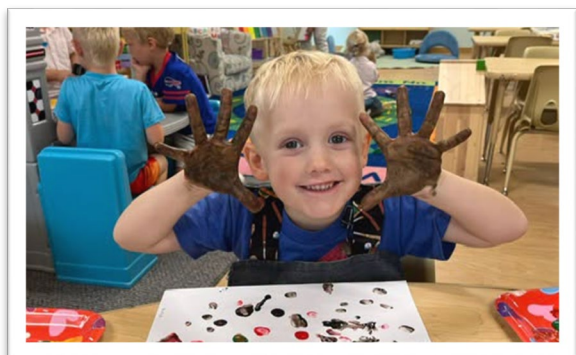


Picture Day!

School pictures are Sept. 16. This is a uniform holiday so your child can wear what they would like for pictures. Please follow our uniform holiday guidelines. Sept. 17 is also a picture day but primarily for our preschool classes. If your child is absent on Sept. 16, they can get their picture taken on Sept. 17, but they will need to wear their school uniform, change into their picture-day shirt and then change back into their school uniform.

To order pictures online, visit www.inter-state.com/order and use order code **0644GJB**. You must order pictures online.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CHILD WANTS A YEARBOOK IN THE SPRING, YOU MUST ORDER THE YEARBOOK NOW WHEN YOU ORDER SCHOOL PICTURES!



School lunch and important lunch update!

Free breakfast and lunch will start Oct. 1 and run until funds are depleted. For more information, please read this [Important Update from West Catholic](#). Please note: **All lunch balances must be paid off before we can begin this program.**

Here is our [September lunch menu](#). The September breakfast menu is: cereal, goldfish grahams, apple juice and milk. Please make sure you have [added funds to your students' Infinite Campus account](#) if they will be having hot lunch. If you need an Infinite Campus activation code, please email Cammi Lawrence (clawrence@stthomasgr.org).

Looking ahead!

Sept. 25 – Uniform holiday
Oct. 3 – Emerald Auction ([Get tickets today!](#))
Oct. 7 – Diocesan All-School Rosary, 1:15pm with Bishop
Oct. 15-16 – No school / Staff professional development
Oct. 23 – Grandfriends' Day / Fall Book Fair
Oct. 23 – Half day (11:15am dismissal)
Oct. 27-29 – Fall Book Fair
Oct. 30 – End of first quarter
Nov. 2 – Second quarter begins
Nov. 4 – Picture retakes
Nov. 12 – Evening parent teacher conferences
Nov. 13 – Half day / Dismissal at 11:15am
Nov. 13 – Afternoon parent teacher conferences
Nov. 20 – Uniform holiday
Dec. 15 – STA Advent concert

GRACEAC Winter I Sign Up!

Registration for GRACEAC Winter 1 sports are open. If your child is interested in basketball or competitive cheer, please [register on the GRACEAC website](#). **The deadline to register is Sept. 30.** After Sept. 30, there will be a late fee to register.

Home & School News!

Home and School would love to help you get connected! Would you please take a couple of minutes to fill out this [STA Parent Questionnaire](#) on ways you'd like to get involved? Thank you so much!

Parent parties (usually without kids) are a tradition here at St. Thomas for parents to gather to meet, mingle and celebrate the start of a new year. We are still looking for hosts for the following grades: P3, P4, Y5, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 8th grade. Consider all the ways to keep it simple whether that is co-hosting, making it a potluck or even hosting in the preschool building! Please reach out to Clare (Clare.delgado14@gmail.com) or Holly (hollykammel@gmail.com) if you are able to host or if you have questions!

Mass participants for Sept. 16

- 1st reading: Margaret K
- Petitions: Domenic N, David A, Taygan D, Bryce B, Ryan M, James V, Max V, Mavis H
- Sacristan: Eleanor V, Dylan S
- Gifts: Joseph EM, Katherine F
- Altar servers: Eleanor VD, Maddie S, Alaina B
- Ushers: Margaret C, Natalie M



Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion topics:

- How can a simple smile or a warm greeting to someone at school or work brighten their day and show them God's love?
- What is a habit or routine our family can start that would help us focus more on God during the week?

Emerald Auction News!

Our [Emerald Auction](#) is just around the corner – Oct. 3, 2026. Doors open at 5:30pm at the St. Nicholas Cultural Center (2250 East Paris Ave SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546). [Buy your tickets today!](#)

We'd love for you to join us at this bi-annual event that celebrates all that makes Saint Thomas shine – our faith, our community, our passion.



After-school enrichment programs!

We are offering after-school clubs through Afterschool Enrichment Solutions. The classes run 3:25-4:25pm. If you are interested in signing up your child for the classes listed below, go to www.learningmeansfun.com/signup and complete the online registration. If you have any questions, please contact Afterschool Enrichment Solutions at (847) 482-9999 or email registration@learningmeansfun.com.

Chess Scholars, 10 classes on Wednesdays, 3:25-4:25PM (K-8)

Fall: September 30-December 9, no class 11/25

Winter: December 16-March 3, no class 12/23, 12/30

Spring: March 10-May 19, no class 4/7

Stage Stars, 9 classes on Mondays, 3:25-4:25PM (K-6)

Fall: October 12-December 7

Winter: December 14-March 8, no class 12/21, 12/28, 1/18, 2/15

Spring: March 15-May 24, no class 3/29, 4/5

MusicStart, 9 classes on Tuesdays, 3:25-4:25PM (K-4)

Fall: October 13-December 8

Winter: December 15-March 2, no class 12/22, 12/29, 2/16

Spring: March 16-May 18, no class 4/6



ART CLUB!

with Beth Jacobson

WEDNESDAYS

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

6 Week Sessions

Grades K-8th

St. Thomas the Apostle School

1429 Wilcox Park Dr SE, Grand Rapids 49506

Meet in the Art Classroom!!!

Session 1 (Fall I):

September 16th – October 21st

Session 2 (Fall II):

October 28th – December 9th

\$150 per 6 WEEK SESSION

OR

FLEXIBLE PUNCH CARDS:

5 punches = \$165

10 punches = \$300

Sign Up HERE!

