WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • est. 1925

Nov. 2-6, 2026

Next week!

The virtue this week is **moderation:** using things in a balanced way.

Monday, Nov. 2 – LATE START FOR STAFF MAPS REVIEW, 9AM

- **LATE START, 9AM**
- **Uniform requirement:** Students must wear pants (no shorts allowed) or skirts WITH leggings.
- **Start of Quarter 2**

Tuesday, Nov. 3 –

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

Wednesday, Nov. 4 –

- **Mass, 8:30am.** Please remember Mass uniforms.
- **Picture retakes.** If your student is getting re-takes, they may bring their picture outfit and then change back into their school uniform after retakes. Order pictures online at inter-state.com/order and use order code 0644GXD.
- **0-5 Open Gym, 11:15am,** St. Thomas Gym. For all kids ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

Friday, Nov. 6 –

- **P3 Parent Gathering** at the Boogs

Saturday, Nov. 7 –

- **Strategic Plan listen session, 9:30am,** Church Lower Level
- **Kindergarten Parent Gathering** at the Johnsons

Parent gatherings!

You should receive an email about parent gatherings. If you did not, email Clare.delgado14@gmail.com or hollykammel@gmail.com.

Parent teacher conferences!

Our parent teacher conferences will be Thursday, Nov. 12, 4-8pm and Friday, Nov. 13 from 12-3pm. Please use our STA Conference Sign Up to reserve a time to talk with your student's teachers.

Teacher meals during conferences!

If you're able to contribute something for dinner for the teachers and staff so they are well-nourished for conferences, please sign up on our STA Conference Dinner Sign Up Genius. We also need a few people to help set up and clean up on Thursday and Friday. Items should be sent to school by Thursday, November 12 at 2pm. All dishes will be cleaned and ready for pick-up on Monday, 11/16. Thank you!

Home & School drop-in meetings!

Our next Home and School meeting will be Nov. 12 during the evening conferences. This meeting will run with an "office hours" style. Stop by, grab a snack, and catch up with members of Home and School! Let us know how the school year is going.

Looking ahead!

Nov. 12 – Evening parent teacher conferences
Nov. 13 – Half day / Dismissal at 11:15am
Nov. 13 – Afternoon parent teacher conferences
Nov. 20 – Uniform holiday
Nov. 25-27 – Thanksgiving break; no school
Dec. 1 – St. Thomas Spirit Day
Dec. 15 – STA Advent concert
Dec. 15-17 – Middle school exams
Dec. 18 – Uniform holiday
Dec. 21-Jan. 1 – Christmas break; no school

Mass participants for Nov. 4

- 1st reading: Margaret K
- Petitions: Georgia L, Mary V, Lennyn J, Fulton N, Jane W, Anna K, Kain M
- Sacristan: Eleanor V, Dylan S
- Gifts: Casper R, Luca V
- Altar servers: Henry B, Mary B, Xavier C
- Ushers: Gloria P, Rilyn D

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion questions:

- Why is moderation important?
- Father Stephen's word of the week started with the letter "G." What was the word and what does it mean?

School lunch and updates!

Here is our November lunch menu. The November breakfast menu is: cereal, goldfish grahams, apple juice and milk. There will be NO extra entrées/doubles or alternate meal options at this time.

Sports uniforms?!

Please return all volleyball, soccer and cross county uniforms to the school office as soon as possible.

Parent gatherings!

We've got upcoming parent parties scheduled:

P3: the Boogs, Nov. 6
P4: the Kammels, Nov. 14
Y5: the Delgados, Nov. 14
Kindergarten: the Johnstons, Nov. 7
2nd grade: the McCalls, TBD
3rd grade: the Kennedys, Nov. 20
7th grade: the Pfennigs, Nov. 14
8th grade: the Williams, TBD

Invites and more information will be coming soon from those who are hosting! **We are still looking for 4th and 6th grade hosts.** Email Clare (Clare.delgado14@gmail.com) or Holly (hollykammel@gmail.com) if you are able to host or have questions!



Financial aid 2027-28!

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the 2027-28 school year. Blackbaud applications are open! First round applications are due Nov. 30! Visit the Blackbaud website at studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school and check out the Blackbaud 2027-28 application instructions for help in creating an account. For information and instructions about applying for aid, check out the Blackbaud 2027-28 online instruction guide. If you have questions, please contact Blackbaud support at (800) 360-8027 or financialaidsupport@blackbaud.school.

School Name: St. Thomas the Apostle, School ID: 13303

Family Service Opportunity!



Kids' Food Basket is looking for volunteers to serve as Course Marshalls for their Gobble Wobble Thanksgiving Day Run. Check out the details below:

- **Date:** November 26 (Thanksgiving)
- **Location:** East Grand Rapids Middle School (2425 Lake Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506)
- **Times:** Arrival 7:15am, Completion around 10am
- **Bonus:** Volunteers will receive race t-shirt, medal and partake in the after-race donuts and cider! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please email STA mom Becca Kohn at becca.kohn@kidsfoodbasket.org if you're interested.





SAINT THOMAS
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

invites you to

A TOAST *to* LEGACY

The Saint Thomas Educational Foundation invites you to an evening of cocktails, conversation, and thoughtful guidance on planning for life's next chapters.

Join fellow parishioners and friends as our featured speakers share insights on Catholic end-of-life planning, retirement, estate planning, and creating a lasting charitable legacy.

FEATURING

Deacon Denny Williams
Catholic End-of-Life Planning

Parishioners Chad Dutcher, Josh Pfennig, & Anthony Chun
Retirement, Estate Planning & Charitable Legacy Giving

Thursday, November 19
6:00-7:00 pm

Kent Country Club
1600 College Avenue NE

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.
This event is complimentary.

Scan the QR Code to RSVP!

SAINT THOMAS
SPIRIT SHOP

Our new Boosters spirit wear collection is here.
Choose your favorite style and wear your Hornet pride on **Spirit Day on December 1.**



Buy your apparel here or at link

https://stthomasapparel.deco-apparel.com/shop