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. 16-20, 2026

Next week!

The virtue this week is **fortitude:** the ability to overcome fear and remain steady in our will in the face of obstacles.

Saturday, Nov. 14 – P4/Y5 Parent Gathering, hosted by the Delgados and the Kammels. Email Clare.delgado14@gmail.com or hollykammel@gmail.com for more info.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 –

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

Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Uniform holiday!

- **Principals for the Day Lily and Liam declare a uniform holiday for today!**
- **Mass, 8:30am.** Mass uniforms not required.
- **0-5 Open Gym, 11:15am,** St. Thomas Gym. For all kids ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

Thursday, Nov. 19 – Ed Foundation's "A Toast to Legacy" event, 6pm, Kent Country Club (1600 College Ave. NE)

Friday, Nov. 20 – Uniform holiday

Congrats!

Congratulations to Anthony Giovannetti, our Director of Technology, on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Nov. 12!

Welcome to our littlest Hornet!

We've got a new member of our St. Thomas community! Beniel was born on November 1. His parents Semhar and Fitsum and his big brother Makbel are very happy he is here! Welcome to the world!

Home & School News!

Home & School Conference Meetings: Thank you to all who stopped by during Thursday Conferences! We loved hearing from you! Here's the agenda and minutes from Thursday. It includes upcoming events, volunteer opportunities & more!

St. Nicholas Cookie Trays for Teachers: Please consider helping gift our STA staff with trays of Christmas cookies. This is a fun and festive tradition in honor of St. Nicholas Day! Help us to spread Christmas cheer and love to our staff! Sign up using our St. Nick's Cookies Sign Up Genius.

Did you know? Looking for a way to treat a teacher? There is a special green binder in the front office that is full of our teachers' and staff's favorite things... restaurants, snacks, etc. Your room parent also has a digital copy of your child's teacher's favorite things!



Looking ahead!

Nov. 25-27 – Thanksgiving break; no school
Dec. 1 – St. Thomas Spirit Day (STA tops, uniform bottoms)
Dec. 15 – STA Advent concert, 6:30-7:30pm
Dec. 15-17 – Middle school exams (11:30am dismissal)
Dec. 18 – Uniform holiday
Dec. 21-Jan. 1 – Christmas break; no school
Jan. 5 – K-2 Parent to parent series, 8:30am
Jan. 12 – 3-5 Parent to parent series, 8:30am
Jan. 15 – Second quarter ends
Jan. 19 – 6-8 Parent to parent series, 8:30am
Jan. 29 – Uniform holiday

Mass participants for Nov. 18

- 1st reading: Connor Y
- Petitions: Lennyn J, John S, Fulton N, Kain M, Dawson S, Mary V
- Sacristan: Eleanor V, Dylan S
- Gifts: Junie V, Lily S
- Altar servers: Ellie V, Cam M, Maddie S
- Ushers: Fin B, Finny F
- Cantors: Ellie B, Hope J, Marta K
- Chimes: Mae V, Jack J, Vivian B, Katherine W

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion questions:

- Who is the strongest or most resilient person you know? How does that person show fortitude?
- Was there a moment this week when you felt like giving up? What kept you going?

School lunch!

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.

On Nov. 24 and Dec. 18, Mr. Don Serba will be serving up his famous pancakes for lunch!

Parent gatherings!

We've got upcoming parent parties scheduled:

2nd grade: the McCalls, TBD
3rd grade: the Kennedys, Nov. 20
8th grade: the Williams, Jan. 9

We are still looking for 4th and 6th grade hosts. Email H&S co-presidents Clare (clare.delgado14@gmail.com) or Holly (hollykammel@gmail.com) if you are able to host or have questions!

GRACEAC sports!

Check out our GRACEAC winter schedule for game schedules and locations. Go Hornets!

A note from our security director!

If you're walking your child to their classroom on indoor blacktop mornings, remember to stop by the main office to sign in with a driver's license and grab a visitor sticker. Just a friendly reminder that all visitors need to sign in at the main office whenever they enter the building. This helps us keep track of everyone in the building and, most importantly, helps keep our students, staff, and visitors safe. Thank you!



After-school enrichment classes!

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.

Stage Stars, 9 classes on Mondays, 3:25-4:25PM (K-6)
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)
Winter: December 15-March 2, no class 12/22, 12/29, 2/16
Spring: March 16-May 18, no class 4/6

Chess Scholars, 10 classes on Wednesdays, 3:25-4:25PM (K-8)
Winter: December 16-March 3, no class 12/23, 12/30
Spring: March 10-May 19, no class 4/7

Financial aid 2027-28!

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the 2027-28 school year. Blackbaud applications are open! 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.

Parish News!

Join us for Thanksgiving Day Dinner, Thursday, Nov. 26, 12-2pm in the Church Lower Level. RSVP by Monday, Nov. 23 by calling the Parish Office (616-459-46662) or by using our STA Thanksgiving Dinner RSVP form. If you'd like to volunteer for this event, please use our STA Thanksgiving Day Sign Up Genius.

Painting Workshops

WITH BETH JACOBSON

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 11/18
THURSDAY 12/3
TUESDAY 12/8

6:00-8:00 PM
Ages 8 +

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRESCHOOL
1530 Fulton St. E Grand Rapids, MI 49503

NOVEMBER 18: Wooden Coasters for Fall Entertaining
DECEMBER 3: Hand-Painted Gift Tags and Labels
DECEMBER 8: Acrylic Painting of a Christmas Cookie

$40 one class
$75 for two
$110 for three

REGISTER HERE!

Sign up with a friend or family member and receive a FREE SET OF CHRISTMAS CARDS by artist Beth Jacobson!



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