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. 23-27, 2026

Next week!

The virtue this week is **magnanimity:** Seeking with confidence to do great things in God; literally "having a large soul."

Tuesday, Nov. 24 –

- **Eucharistic Adoration, 9am to 5:15pm**, Church
- **Mr. Don's Pancake Lunch!**
- **Parent Rosary, 2:45pm,** Church
- **Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm,** Church

Wednesday, Nov. 25 – Friday, Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving break / No school!

********** AFTER THANKSGIVING BREAK **********

Monday, Nov. 30 – Back to school, 8:15am

Tuesday, Dec. 1 – STA Spirit Day!

- **St. Thomas Spirit Day!** Wear St. Thomas spirit top with uniform bottoms to show your STA pride!
- **Eucharistic Adoration, 9am to 5:15pm**, Church
- **Parent Rosary, 2:45pm,** Church
- **Parent Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 3:05pm,** Church

Wednesday, Dec. 2 –

- **Mass, 8:30am.** Please remember Mass uniforms.
- **0-5 Open Gym, 11:15am,** St. Thomas Gym. For all kids ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

Thursday, Dec. 3 – St. Nick's cookie trays for teachers. Sign up using our St. Nick's Cookies Sign Up Genius.

Home & School News!

Home & School Conference Meetings: Thank you to all who stopped by during Thursday Conferences! We loved hearing from you! Check out the H&S meeting minutes for more info on upcoming events.

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. We will be delivering cookies to teachers on Dec. 3.

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 Blackbaud 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, contact Blackbaud support at financialaidsupport@blackbaud.school or (800) 360-8027.

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

Looking ahead!

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. 6 – Kindergarten Spotlight, 6pm. RSVP today!
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. 20 – Preschool Palooza, 6pm. RSVP today!
Jan. 29 – Uniform holiday

Breaking bread, building faith!

Family dinner-time discussion questions:

- What is a great act of kindness God might be calling you to do to make the world a better place?
- What is your earliest or favorite memory from a past Thanksgiving gathering?

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! Pancakes for everyone!

Parent gatherings!

We've got upcoming parent parties scheduled:

2nd grade: the McCalls, TBD
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!

Lost & Found!

Any lost & found items will be in the main hallway of the school (right outside the office) until Thanksgiving break. After that, all items will be donated to Goodwill.







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

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!

ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT



STOCKINGS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Carlton Lofts is home to 40 residents, many of whom go without Christmas presents. Let's come together as a school community to bring Christ's light to their holiday!

COLLECTION ITEMS

- [ ] **P3**- 1-2 Pocket calendars or planners
- [ ] **P4 (Brunner) -** 1-2 Unisex Winter Hats
- [ ] **P4 (Perdue) + Y5 -** Package of pens
- [ ] **Kindergarten-** 1 Pair of Gloves or Mittens
- [ ] **1st Grade -**1 Pair of Fluffy Socks
- [ ] **2nd Grade-** Travel Shampoo or Body Wash
- [ ] **3rd Grade-** Toothbrush and Travel Toothpaste
- [ ] **4th Grade (Tarrant)-** 2-3 pack Chapstick
- [ ] **4/5 Grade (Zakrajsek) -** Hot Chocolate packs
- [ ] **5th Grade (Mester) -** Chocolates/ Christmas Candy
- [ ] **6th Grade-** Drink mixes (i.e. Crystal Lite)
- [ ] **7th Grade-** Pack of Meat Sticks
- [ ] **8th Grade-** Deck of Cards or Card Game

ADDITIONAL GIVING:

If you'd like to bless residents with something a little extra, consider signing up to donate a $25 gift card or budget friendly bluetooth headphones.

Click Here or Follow the QR Code

Collection Dates
Nov. 30- Dec 11

Drop off Location
Students can bring items to their classrooms.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

We are trying to make this a collective effort for the kids. We know Costco is amazing, but think small so kids can see how they can come together to reach a goal.

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Preschool Palooza & Kindergarten Spotlight

Kindergarten Spotlight

Wednesday, January 6
6-7 pm; Ministry Center

Preschool Palooza

Wednesday, January 20
6-7 PM; Preschool Center
1530 Fulton Street E





Come meet our teachers, explore our classrooms,
and learn about enrollment for the 2027-28 school year.
Learn about why YOU belong here!

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