



"Faith in Every Student"

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August/September 2016

Welcome Back!

I hope all of you enjoyed your summer vacation. This year we have many new friends joining our school - welcome to the Saint Thomas family! We have some new staff joining us as well. Miss Michelle (Fleegle) will be assisting Miss Tonia in the PreK4 room, Mrs. Mamie Wilson will be assisting Mrs. Jorkaksy with our combined 1st/2nd grade class, and our new Pastor will be Father Rich Tomkosky. I am looking forward to working with these fantastic new members of our school community and serving as your principal again this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy Higgins



Dressing for a Cause

Each month, we will focus on a cause to promote the spirit of giving, awareness, and charitable works as a school. This is done by helping a group or cause with a need: i.e. canned goods, penny drives, volunteer services, etc. At the end of the month, those students who participate may choose to "dress down" by wearing non-uniform, school-appropriate clothing on the designated Friday.

We are excited to try something new this year. In conjunction with International Day of Peace, we are asking students (siblings can work together) to create a poster promoting peace in our school, community, or the world. Anyone who brings their poster in to school by Wednesday, September 21st will be allowed to "dress down" on Friday, September 30th.

It would be really nice to display these peace posters in local businesses. More information about this will be shared at the 1st Home and School Association meeting on Wednesday, September 7th.

School Safety

We want our students to be safe at Saint Thomas School. The following measures will be in place to ensure the safety of your children:

If you are dropping off a student in grades K - 4th grade, please drive west on Vondersmith Avenue (back alley) for morning recess drop off. If you need to come into the school, please use the parking spaces on the side of the building (Thomas Street). If the weather is not suitable for morning recess, a teacher will be at the blacktop side door to welcome the students. On these mornings, the best drop off place for the students would be at the orange cones at the Penn Street end of our lot. Please save the few parking spaces we have out front (Penn Street) for the Pre K parents that need to park and bring their students in. There will still be an extra row of cones to prevent people from parking in the parking lot and then trying to back out and possibly getting hit.

We welcome and encourage visitors to our school. It is, however, important that we know who is in the building at all times. During school hours, every door that leads into the building will be locked, along with the doors at the top of both stairwells. To gain entrance into the building, you will need to come to the side door (on the blacktop side of the building) and ring the buzzer. This will alert school personnel that you are at the door and wish to enter the building. Once your identity and reason for entering the school has been determined, the door will be unlocked. At that time you should proceed upstairs and ring the buzzer at the top of the steps to be admitted to the 2nd floor, where you must go directly to the office to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. Always use only the blacktop side door with the buzzer to exit the school.

In addition to the camera located outside of our main entrance, we have installed two more security cameras so that the office staff can also view the main stairwell and front lobby at all times.

We believe that it is extremely important to continue to encourage volunteerism and visitation in our schools by the community and school families. This school security system is in no way meant to be a deterrent to this involvement, but rather an additional measure to ensure the well-being of our students. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to increase safety and security in our school.



Important Dates!



August

24th : First Day of School ~ No Mass
September Lunch and Milk Money Due
30th: First School Mass 8:30am

September

2nd: Eucharistic Adoration (1st - 5th grade)
5th: NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
7th: October Lunch and Milk Money Due
Home School Meeting 6:30pm
14th: BINGO
Workers: Romagnino, Diehl, Loop, & Bennett
21st: International Day Of Peace
22nd: School Board 7:00pm School Hall
23rd: NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service
30th: Dress Down Day

Building Peacemakers

At Saint Thomas School we always act in a manner according to the teachings of Christ. In doing so, we have a zero bullying tolerance policy. Saint Thomas School is special in that we rarely, if ever, have had an incidents of bullying. We recite the following "No Bullying Promise" everyday after the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem:

I am a Saint Thomas School Peacekeeper. I promise to be kind in my thoughts, words, and actions. In doing this, I will make Saint Thomas School a special place. As Jesus teaches, do unto other as you would have others do unto you.



Mass

We celebrate Mass every Wednesday at 8:30am in our school hall. This is a focus of our school- religious education and the worship of God. Everyone is welcome everyone to join us!

Please read, sign, and return:

- ~ School Handbook (return last page signed)
- ~ Emergency Form
- ~ Walking Permission Form
- ~ Milk and Lunch Order Form
- ~ Media Release
- ~ Memorandum of Understanding (if needed)

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- When sending money into the school, please send all forms and payments in an envelope clearly marked by the deadlines.
- When signing up for Morning Care, turn your slip into the office along with your payment.
- Morning recess for kindergarten and up begins at 8:00am, with school beginning promptly at 8:20am. If you arrive before 8:00am & are not paying for Morning Care, you must wait outside with your child until the adult in charge of recess arrives. If you arrive after 8:20am, bring your child up to the school office and sign them in with a written excuse or they will be considered unexcused tardy.
- When your child is absent from school, make sure to send in a written excuse.
- If your child is going home an alternate way, please let their teacher know along with the office.
- All volunteers working with children (classroom helpers, lunch, recess, field trips, etc.) must complete the online Youth Protection Program and provide documentation of the state mandated clearances. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michele in the office.



Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

- Proverbs 23:12