



"Faith in Every Student"

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back to
School



August/September 2017

Welcome Back!

I hope all of you found time to relax this summer and also had fun with family and friends. We have some new friends joining our school this year - welcome to the Saint Thomas family! We have some new staff joining us as well in PreK3 and 4th/5th grade. I am looking forward to working with these fantastic new members of our school community and continuing to serve as your principal.

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.

In conjunction with International Day of Peace, we are asking students (siblings can work together) to create a poster promoting **kindness** in our school, community, or the world. Anyone who brings their poster in to school by Thursday, September 21st will be allowed to "dress down" on Friday, September 29th.

Be kind to one
another.
Ephesians 4:32

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 - 5th 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 children 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.

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

23rd : First Day of School ~ No Mass
September Lunch and Milk Money Due
30th: First School Mass 8:30am

September

1st: Eucharistic Adoration (1st - 5th grade)
4th: NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
6th: Home School Meeting 6:30pm
13th: BINGO
Workers: Benitez & Bennett
20th: October Lunch and Milk Money Due
21st: International Day Of Peace
School Board 7:00pm
22nd: NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service
29th: Dress Down Day

Please read, sign, and return:

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

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- Please send all payments to school in envelopes labeled with your child's name & what is included (ie "Billy Higgins - lunch"), and put them in your child's daily folder. Their teacher will then send them to the office in the class folder.
- 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.

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 any 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 to join us!



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

- Proverbs 23:12