

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



August 16, 2021

THE NOTE!

Here we go! We have had an amazing start to the school year. The first two days were a whirlwind, but now the full week has arrived. I pray that all of our kids handle the week well and learn a lot while having a lot of fun! Congratulations to the JCJH softball team who placed 1st at the Altamont tournament this weekend along with the JCJH boys' team. Good luck to them as they continue their seasons. Good luck to our St. Thomas boys' baseball team as they begin their season tonight. The JCJH Cross Country team starts their season Thursday. Go Saints! Go Eagles!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: SB H Cumberland 4:30, BB @ T-Town 4:30, Pre-K Open Houses (A.M. 6:00, P.M. 7:00)

Tuesday: SB H Dieterich 4:30, BB H Palestine 4:30

Wednesday: Pre-K begins, Cheer practice 5:30-7:00

Thursday: SB @ Marshall 4:30, CC H St. Anthony

Friday: **All-School Mass (6)**, SB-B @ T-Town 4:30, BB H Sigel 4:30, NCHS Media Night 6:00

Saturday: SB H Windsor/Stew-Stras 10:00/noon, St. Thomas mass 4:30

Sunday: St. Thomas masses 7:00/10:00, St. Mary's mass 8:30

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: Bullying flyer, August calendar, August menu, Boxtops App instructions, Empower Illinois flyer

- If you are needing to make a **change in transportation** in regards to busing, the email they would like you to use is transportation@jccu1.org. If you need to call them, their number is 618-783-3023. They are very good to us, so no matter the situation, please be polite and kind.
- If you are emailing us about any **changes for your student**, please include lorismith@stthomassaints.com, jillbierman@stthomassaints.com, and their classroom teacher. It helps if we are all informed. Thanks!
- We are sending home the August **menu** again. Please be patient if we have to make any last minute changes. Our suppliers are facing shortages because of

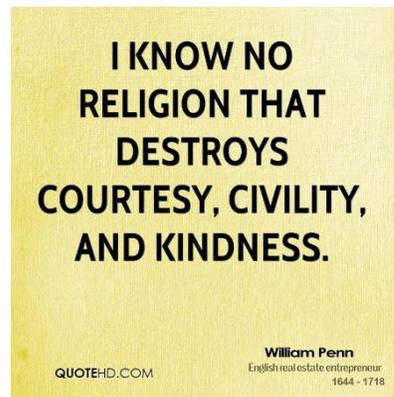
several factors, so if we have to substitute, we will. Don't worry, we will make sure your kids have food ☺!

- If you come to school to pick up your student early or bring them in throughout the day, we ask that you come into the office and sign them in/out in our **binder**. Last year we didn't do this in order to keep visitors limited, but we are going back to that for now. If you have any questions, let us know.
- In the packet you will find a paper explaining **bullying**. It is good to remind ourselves that kids will be mean sometimes, and although it is not okay, it is impossible to expect kind behavior constantly at a young age. They are still learning how to socially interact, how to handle their emotions, and, in general, how to be a friend. If you have a concern, please let me know. Encourage your kids to talk to their teachers or me if they need help with any situations. And, of course, talk to your kids about being nice and treating others the way they want to be treated.
- **Empower Illinois** is a tax credit opportunity that was created to benefit private schools and the donator. There is a flyer in the packet today. Please let me know if I can get you any further information. Feel free to share it with family and friends! Any tax preparer will know how it all works and can help as well!
- Mrs. Vahling is looking for **empty 2-Liter bottles for Science**. If you have some, send them with your kiddos! Thanks!
 - Just a reminder that we are a **NO GUM** school. This includes the school, playground, and gym. Sometimes a teacher will let them chew gum in the classroom as a reward, but no gum otherwise. Thanks!
 - The **Duck Race** was a HUGE success. Thanks to all who bought ducks, sponsored the race, or came out to enjoy fellowship with the rest of the families. 1st place went to Eric Weber. 2nd place, Jan Schackmann, and 3rd place went to Karen Bolander. Our blue duck winners were Griffin Bierman, Drake Herdes, Mariah McVicar, and Maleah Miller. Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks to the committee and those who helped make it a success. I'm very blessed to enjoy planning and attending events because of sharing it with such amazing people! Glad we're family!
- **Congratulations and Good luck to 6th grader, Quincy Fulton**. He has been selected to participate in the USA Baseball 12U National Team Identification Series in North Carolina. This is an awesome honor and opportunity. He will be leaving tomorrow and we pray things go the way he wants them to – Go Quincy!
- It is so humbling that my list of **Thank You notes** to write is getting longer and longer. So many people have helped get our year started right! I received an anonymous note today just thanking us for providing a Christian education in our county accompanied by a donation. Great families – Great kids – Great Staff!! Praise God!
- If you didn't get the bulletin at church this week, please go to the church's web site and read about the **Family Life Center** coming to Newton! What an

awesome opportunity for our community. We have several St. Thomas families working to make it happen and I can't wait for our kids to be able to help out!

Pray for continued progress on the project.

- **Book recommendation** – If you're looking for something inspiring, truth-filled, and full of common sense, try Matthew Kelly's new book, *Life is Messy*. It really does challenge the reader to move our lives to the simpler side. Great advice and great stories! The quote he uses at the beginning is from Charlotte's Web – "There's no limit to how complicated things can get on account of one thing always leading to another."



We are focusing on the **virtue of courtesy** this month and next. I gave the kids several of examples of being courteous. Some of those included:

1. "Please" and "Thank you"
2. Good Table Manners (wow – we've got work to do)
 3. Ask before you take
 4. Knock before entering
 5. Say sorry because you mean it
 6. Don't point at people
7. Cover the mouth when sneezing or coughing
 8. "Excuse me"
 9. "Hello" and "Goodbye"
 10. Address people by name
11. Listen when someone is speaking
12. Greet others with a smile (some still struggling with this)

We need your help. Insist on these 12 things when your kids are with you. These things seem so simple, but so many aren't forced to do them. These will set our kids apart!

Have an awesome week! We recognized all of our athletes last week including our boys who are playing JFL. The kids are busy. Let's just make sure we keep them focused on the most important things: church, family, and school. If you need anything, let me know! Jill ☺