

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



August 14, 2020

THE NOTE!

The first three days were awesome! I can't say enough about the teachers, students, and all of you. It definitely took everyone working together, but we're making it happen. Please know that we are learning every day and are making adjustments to make this as great a year as possible!

Keep JCJH staff and students in your prayers as they begin a week of Remote Learning.

GO EAGLES!!



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: BB H T-Town 4:30, SB @ Cumberland 4:30, No CC practice

Tuesday: BB @ Palestine 4:30, No SB practice, CC practice

Wednesday: **All-School Mass (8)**, Pre-K begins, SB practice, No CC practice

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

Friday: **6-8 Class Mass (6)**, No SB or CC practice

As you can see our athletes begin this week. We wish all of them good luck and pray that they learn a lot, improve as individuals and as a team, and respect the sport they participate in and the coach leading. Just a reminder that we want to encourage our kids with positivity and love. St. Thomas is known for its sportsmanship! We're raising people, not athletes!

Attached/In packet: 2019-2020 Yearbook order forms (due back Tuesday, Aug. 25th or order online), Laundry Detergent order forms, health check forms for bus riders, SCRIP order forms, Sacramento Info (3rd graders only)

Patience

- With the remote learning beginning at the jr. high, I wanted to clarify how things will go in case of a positive test for **COVID-19** here at St. Thomas. If one of our students or staff members is tested for COVID-19 and their test is positive, the health department will do the contact tracing to see who all must be quarantined for 14 days. Any family members who live in the same household will be for sure. Beyond that we aren't sure until the situation occurs and the health department finishes their part. Of course any symptoms should be monitored, and all students must be fever free for 24 hours without the help of medication to come to school. We will not force anyone to be tested, but appreciate you not sending your child if they have symptoms. If your child is out for several days and sees a doctor, please have the doctor write a note that says they can return to school.
- The kids are doing very well with all of the **new rules/protocols**. They wear their masks without complaint and are working hard in their classes. You should all be very proud of how well they are handling things. As much as some kids don't want to come to school, they appreciate being here more than being home all day, every day. Keep up the good work Saints!
- We have our first **all-school mass this WEDNESDAY!** All students should be wearing mass-appropriate clothing. Boys: khaki/dress shorts/pants and a shirt with no writing on it. Girls: Pants/dress/skirt and shirt with no writing. 5th-8th graders should follow the dress code in the handbook – girls should have long enough bottoms and sleeves on shirts/dresses for both boys and girls. When in doubt, don't wear it until you ask. The older students do receive a check if they aren't dressed for church.
 - If you look at our all-year calendar, there are several places where we are supposed to have **early dismissal** at 2:10 and on what supposed to be Homecoming, 1:20. We are going to cancel those. Unless you hear differently, plan for us to go until 3:10 every day. This will hopefully help all of you with pick-up/daycare/etc. If the school district goes back to full days and buses are made available, we will follow the original calendar.
 - The **Late Stay program** is going very well. I'm so glad that we can help out with the craziness that comes with no buses in the afternoon. I am thankful to have a staff that is willing to help with it! If your student(s) are staying after 4:00

for late stay, we will be in the cafeteria, so please pick up on the east side of the building between us and Pizza Man. Before 4:00, we will be in the parish center/on the playground.

- If your son or daughter would rather use the **face shield**, Tami Michl has youth (6.99) and adult (9.99) sizes for sale at her boutique, Macy Mae's, in Oblong.
- Thanks to advice from some our moms, **parent pick-up**, although it takes a while, is going smoothly. If you are in the line that faces the high school, be sure not to block the alley between us and Pizza Man. Our Pre-K families will need to get in there to pick up starting Wednesday.
- In the packet you'll find copies of our **SCRIP** forms. One is what we usually have on hand. You can send a note and money and we can send the cards home with your child at the end of the day. The other one has the cards you can order. Orders are due Monday and will be here by Thursday or Friday. This is an easy fundraiser for us. We make money off of gift cards that you can spend where you normally shop anyways. I try to make it a twice a month habit. You also receive 1/2 of what we make back for Fair Share. Each business gives back a percentage.

For example:

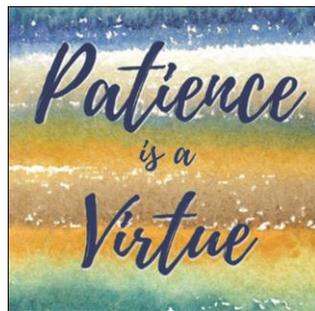
If I buy 1 Hartrich's card (\$50), they give back 10%. St. Thomas School makes \$5. As a parent, I earn 1.2 of that or \$2.50 towards my fair share contract.

- The mornings are pretty hectic with more families **dropping off**. If you decide to pull into the parking lot, you need to enter from Washington Street and drive through to the church alley to pull in the lot. Please don't stop where the buses do and let your kids out. This slows the buses down. When you leave, exit onto Jourdan Street. The alley where the buses come in needs to be one way from south to north. No cars are to pull in off of the highway due to the buses exiting there. Let me know if you have any questions. There have been some near misses with accidents. If you can, feel free to pull up to the gate on Washington street and let your student walk across the playground. It's okay to pull in the parking lot, just go south to north and don't drop off where buses do. Thanks!
- **3rd grade parents:** Father is having a few more meetings so that your kids can receive Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation. Yes, we are doing the education at school and will continue to do so, but we will not be able to have a large group ceremony. You can sign up for Father's classes if you'd like so that your child can share in the Eucharist at mass sooner. Once you've completed them, you can schedule the date to receive. Mrs. Waldhoff/Mrs. Volk will be continuing the education and plan to have students do their first reconciliation during Advent if you haven't done it by then. The parent packet has more information for you.
- The deadline for ordering St. Thomas gear is fast approaching. You can order online or send your order in to us with payment. I'm attaching the order form that also has the link to order online. Thanks so much Tiffany Keller for all your work on this! Can't wait to get my new stuff!

- Currently **Fall Festival** has been moved to Oct. 24th. They will make a final decision the first part of September.
- We still plan to start **Bingo** and have our **Garage Sale**. If you can work Bingo on Sept. 4th, let me know.
- We have moved our **head checks** to next Thursday, Aug. 27th. The Health Department is very busy, as you can imagine.
- I'm reading Matthew Kelly's book, I Heard God Laugh. One of the passages says, **"We cannot live without the hope that things will change for the better, and we are not victims of our circumstances."** I'm trying to be hopeful that all of this will pass. Hopefully we will be stronger for it and not victims of it!



- Thanks to so many of you and your children who have asked about my father-in-law, Bill Bierman. He is home and recovering. Definitely hit him hard and he's still dealing with it, but he is released. Keep him in your prayers.
- We keep praying for our kids who are home on quarantine, as well as Mr. Stork. They are all still symptom free and want to be at school.



Let me know if you need anything or have any questions. Thank you for your patience and confidence in me. Definitely takes us all, but that's how a family works! Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Jill