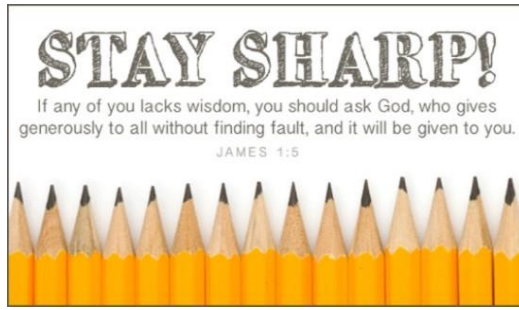


St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



August 21, 2023

THE NOTE!

We've started off strong and I can't wait to see what these kids can accomplish. I hate that the heat is settling in for the week, but we will make sure to be cautious and take care of them. I'm not usually thankful for no sunshine, but this morning I was glad to see the clouds-may not be that lucky this afternoon.

Our 8th graders have begun their service time on Fridays. Some worked here at school, some at the Silk Purse (thanks to Michelle Fulton for taking them), and some worked on landscaping for the city (thank to Sara B. Bergbower for taking them). It's a good thing when the youth of a community are serving in it! I appreciate Mr. Stork's commitment to this!



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: SB H Charleston 4:30, BB @ Red Hill 4:30 (leave at 2:45)

Tuesday: Welcome Pre-K! SB H T-Town 4:30, CC @ T-Town 4:30

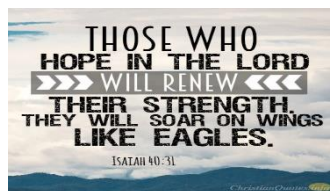
Wednesday: Booster Club 6:00 @ KC Hall

Thursday: SB H Flora 4:30, BB H Casey 6:30

Friday: **All-School Mass (8)**, BB H Dieterich 4:30, NCHS FB Home Shelbyville 7:00

Saturday: CC @ Cumberland 9:00, JFL @ Paris, **Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30**

Sunday: **Mass at St. Thomas 7:00 and 10:00, Mass at St. Mary's 8:30**



ATTACHED/IN PACKET: 2022-2023 Yearbooks (if ordered), Booster Club agenda, Elk's free orthopedic clinic flyer, Dance Hall Studio registration, Boxtops flyer, Empower Illinois information, 2022-2023 4th quarter honor roll certificates (6th-8th), Girls Scouts flyer, FORMED information

St. Thomas School Prayer List: Kim Jenkins, Adeline Miller, Tatum Garcia, Declan Robertson, Lucas Shadle, Deacon Larry Miller, Sarah Bernhard, Kerri Lacy, Jim Feldhake, Wendy Meinhart, Rhonda Wilson, Delorse Johnson, Elmer Lawyer, Whitney Benefiel

- We are seeing a lot of Crocs without socks. **PLEASE put socks on your kids.** Their feet get sweaty and very dirty (and gross). Sandals are the only exception. Thanks!
- **Casey's is having a cookie promotion** for our kids! When you check out, you can pay for a cookie and at the end, they'll bring those cookies to school! We appreciate them thinking of us!
- This week will be very hot. We are blessed to have air conditioning in our classrooms and an air conditioned cafeteria/gym. We'll take care of the kids! If your athlete wants to bring a **water bottle**, I told them today that they probably should.
- What a great weekend! I was at **Media Night Friday** and saw many of our graduates representing their teams, as well as our 8th grader, Brooke Bergbower, managing the NCHS football team.
- Saturday, I watched **JFL** and was so impressed with the boys. All of them did a great job and I was especially proud of our Saints who are playing! The **JFL cheerleaders** were loud and proud! **Sunday** was a lot of fun and it was good to see all of you. I tried to chat with as many as I could. I wish we came together more often! Thanks to all who were there!
- Just a quick thank you to all of our **coaches**. John Bennett, Craig Barthelme, and Nathan Earnest are leading our 12 baseball boys! They are currently 2-0! Sara Beam, Shelby Lohman, and Andrea Cleaver are the softball coaches – they are also undefeated, and our cross country runners are coached by Jeremy French and Justin Kelsheimer who are leading a bunch of kids and doing a great job. The time and patience it takes is not for the faint of heart!
- I don't like to put "**thank you's**" in my note because I always forget people, but I do want to think the Marketing committee for organizing the duck race and picnic, Mrs. Finley and the Aquatic Center, Mikayla, Kylie and Aleah for lifeguarding, Kuhl's Trailer Sales for the grill fuel, Alan and Krista for the grill, the parents who brought dessert for all, and Mr. and Mrs. Zuber for all of their help! If I missed you, know that I appreciate everyone's help always!
- We are having our first **Booster Club meeting** this Wednesday at 6:00 at the KC Hall. We can always use some more input and ideas! Stop by and let me buy you a drink! Thanks to our officers: Lindsey Hermann, Sheryl Brummer, Sarah Barthelme and Kara Weber. There are several other dedicated members.
- **Boxtops** are a way to raise money for our school that requires no time/organization from us. If you'll put the app on your phone, you can simply scan your receipts and it will apply it to our school. I encourage you to do this. I scan every receipt for Fetch and Boxtops.
- If you or someone in your extended family is looking for a tax credit, please share the **Empower Illinois** information. This is an Illinois tax credit that helps our students'

- families pay their tuition. It's a great way to be a part of ensuring as many kids get a Catholic education as possible. Tax preparers know about this opportunity as well.
- Our parish is lucky to have access to **FORMED**. This is an online resource for families, schools, and everyone. There are videos, series, saint studies, etc. that your family can benefit from. Registration is merely our parish and zip code. The teachers have been trained on it and will be using it in class. I plan to share videos throughout the year to further explain special days/seasons of our church. Check it out! It's better for our kids than TikTok!
 - I am attaching the **free/reduced lunch** form one more time. If you think you might qualify, it doesn't hurt to fill it out and let me check. Lunch is expensive!
 - Just a reminder that students are expected to drink **milk** for lunch unless we hear differently. Encourage your kids to try new foods. Lots of picky eaters ☺!
 - I shared with our 7th and 8th graders that there will be a **junior high musical** this year. Auditions are Sept. 11. I gave 4 of them the packets and tryout materials. If your son or daughter is interested, please let me know. The musical will be Frozen Jr.!
 - One thing we noticed this morning is the look of being **tired** on many of the kids' faces. I encourage everyone to seek time at home just resting. We try to give our kids all these experiences, and we take them to this and that, and we let them be in everything. The effort is admirable, but sometimes kids need more downtime and rest. Tears and frustration come faster to the exhausted! Choose a time each weekend to be at home with nothing going on. Choose wisely, though. Church should be a priority, not one of the many other options. Rest in God, not man!
 - We are so **thankful** for an anonymous donor who has allowed me to help my teachers get everything they need/want for their classrooms. St. Thomas is blessed with wonderful people who support what we are doing here! God is Good-All the Time!
 - Thanks to those who are serving on our **School Board** this year: Sara K. Bergbower, President; Dennis Weber, Vice-President; Leah Finley, Secretary; Aubrey Bergbower, Kiley Borgic, Matt Bower, Jeffrey Finley, Ryan Probst, and Kelsie Songer. As always if there is something you would like us to discuss, feel free to contact any of these members or myself and Father Paul.
 - The teachers have already given several **Optimism** virtues. The kids are doing great!

