

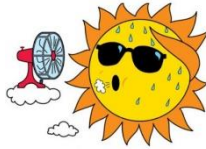
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



August 26, 2024

THE NOTE!

It's going to be a hot week. Know that we will be taking needed precautions to keep the kids safe. Our gym is such a blessing and will definitely be utilized!



It was great to see many of our graduates being introduced at Media Night at NCHS. They seem to be enjoying high school and that is heartwarming. Please keep all of them in your prayers as they continue their year and begin their extra-curricular activities. There are too many to name, but lots to be proud of.

I truly enjoyed watching so many of the kids play soccer on Saturday. It was hot, but they persevered! Thanks to our parents for putting in the time, especially those who are coaching.



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Detergent Sale begins (coming home in your parent packet), BB H Red Hill 4:30 (Cancelled), SB @ Charleston 4:30 (Cancelled)

Tuesday: Server review/training for 5th-8th 12:30, Head Checks by JCHD, Fall pictures for CC and SB @ JCJH, CC H 4:30, SB @ T-Town 4:30

Wednesday: No mass, Bus Safety Drills K-8

Thursday: BB @ Casey 4:30, SB @ Flora 4:30

Friday: **All-School Mass** (6th in charge), BB @ Dieterich 4:00, VFB @ Shelbyville 7:00

Saturday: CC @ Cumberland Invite 9:00 (leave at 7:45), **Mass @ St. Thomas 4:30**

Sunday: **Masses at St. Thomas 7:00/10:00, Mass @ Ste. Marie 8:30, Ste. Marie Picnic**

Monday: **NO SCHOOL**, BB @ Oblong 4:30, SB H Mattoon 5:00

Attached/In Packet: Detergent order form, FCA Flyer (5th-8th), Ste. Marie Picnic flyer

- I'm excited to share that St. Thomas will be starting their own chapter of **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)**. This is for ANY 5th-8th grader, no matter if they play a sport or not. This organization does a lot to help kids stay strong in their faith while at school and while participating in extra-curricular activities. There are also opportunities for summer sports camps as they get older. I'm so thankful that Mrs. Zuber is getting this started. Let's have a big turnout!
- Our 5th-8th graders will be **trained and re-trained on serving** Tuesday morning. If your son or daughter is not signed up to serve at weekend masses, please encourage them. It's something our kids can do to give back to the church. I don't remember kids having an option in the past, but Linda needs to hear from parents before she puts them on the schedule. Our non-Catholic students are able to serve at school masses.
- The health department will be here Tuesday morning to do **head checks**. Prepare your kids for their hair to be "messed up". We are thankful to have the nurses come and do this for us.
- The bus garage will be here Wednesday to go over **bus safety and evacuation**. We will take the kids out in groups. Thanks to Daniel Stark and all of our drivers for keeping our kids safe on the way to and from school.



- Thanks to all of our pick-up adults for remembering to **turn RIGHT** when leaving the parking lot after picking up your kiddos at the end of the day. Please continue to do this. I know it's not necessarily the direction you want to go, but you can quickly go around the block after turning right. This keeps drivers/kids safe!
- **Bags of cans** can be dropped off in our cage at the southeast corner of the building. This money is used for gas for our mowers and other incidentals that come up. **Save your tabs** – this year will be our class competition in the spring.

- Last week and this, I've been teaching all of the kids a song I learned at CHWC (Catholic Heart Work Camp). It's called **Yes, Lord!** The link below takes you to it. The kids have actions to go with it and so far are enjoying it, showing lots of enthusiasm. I hinted that maybe they would want to teach Mom and Dad ;)! I know this is a song that all denominations use in worship.
<https://youtu.be/YRcoJeQuCo?si=ErTVpoLDXSyJEBeV>
- If you or someone you know is considering **joining the Catholic Church**, please call Linda or Father Paul at church, (618) 783-8741.
- We always want to support our sister parish, St. Mary's. Their **Pre-Labor Day Picnic** is this Sunday starting at 3:00. It's such a fun day. SOCO will be the entertainment from 6-9 p.m. and my girls are always excited to see St. Thomas kids! Hope to see some of you there!



A pep talk from a former St. Thomas Mom and someone who loves your kids:

I know that as the school year gets into full swing, everyone is re-learning how to balance it all (including me). I remember well the late nights after a ballgame finishing up homework, and then realizing on the way to school the next morning (sometimes with tears) that they'd forgotten to do something. I encouraged my kids to do their very best, but a check/strike was not the end of the world. I did not validate their frustration by feeding into their emotions or sharing mine.

Granted, they got a talking to with each check, and detentions weren't well-received by Ben and me, but everything considered, St. Thomas was the best decision we made for our kids – worth every challenge. Our kids agree wholeheartedly! They all have a strong work ethic that started with the high expectations of their elementary teachers. Sometimes we parents get overwhelmed and frustrated, but we should try not to share that with our kids. Encourage them and build them up while maintaining respect for their teachers. It's worth it in the end! If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask.

Have a great week and long weekend!

Jill