

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



December 21, 2020

THE NOTE!

What a beautiful Monday! The Christmas shirts are festive and fun. Tomorrow we will wear Christmas socks, and after church they can wear Christmas hats or headbands. It's chaos, but it's a lot of fun to see the excitement. Kids definitely make Christmas time even better! I'm so glad we get to be at school for this season.

Lori and I have been overwhelmed already by the generosity of all of you. We feel very blessed to work here and your kids are gift enough! Although I'm not going to give anything back ;) Seriously, though, you are all counted in my prayers at Christmas time, and always, for being a part of this amazing school family!



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Christmas Shirt day

Tuesday: Christmas Hat/Socks Day. **All-School Mass** (Staff), Regular dismissal time
– NO LATE STAY

Wednesday: No School

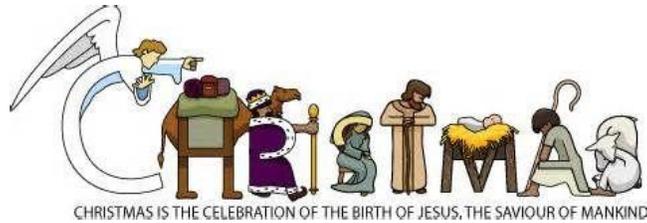
Thursday: Mass at Ste. Marie 4:00 p.m., Mass at St. Thomas 5:30 p.m., 11:00 p.m.

Friday: Merry Christmas! Mass at St. Thomas 8:00 a.m., Mass at Ste. Marie 9:30 a.m.

Students and teachers return Jan. 5th.

Enjoy your Christmas Break!

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: January menu/calendar, Charlie Brown Christmas, bus slips



COVID UPDATE: Not to jinx us, but we are currently COVID and QUARANTINE free! Pray for continued good health among our families and the students of Jasper County!

- ❖ We have a few youth-sized Saints **masks** left if anyone is looking for another gift. They are \$10.
- ❖ We are thrilled to be able to have **mass** as a school family on Tuesday morning before we leave for Christmas Break, so we have switched our two dress-up options. Today was Christmas shirts and Tuesday will be socks and hats/headbands. We're thankful to Father Dean for offering to hold mass. The staff will be covering the ministries and our guitar group will lead the music.
- ❖ Just a reminder that **Tuesday** will be a regular dismissal day of 3:10, but we will not have late stay. Thanks for helping us celebrate Advent/Christmas as a staff.
- ❖ The library has another **Story Walk** around the square. This time it begins at Parish Auction and goes around the square, telling the story of Charlie Brown Christmas. I've shared with you some interesting facts about the story in the parent packet. Several of our classes have or will be taking the story walk.
- ❖ After talking with the school board and my staff, we've decided to raise the **late-stay price to \$4 per student** after 4:00 p.m. beginning in January. This will allow me to offer my teachers something in return for adding a couple of hours to the end of their normal day. I've spoken to several other schools and this is still very reasonable.
- ❖ As far as I know, things are **remaining the same** for Jasper Unit #1 when we return from break. We will continue our current schedule as well.
- ❖ **Masses for Christmas** are listed above. If you arrive and there is no more room in church, there will be seating in the parish center and communion will be brought over at the proper time. Thanks to Mrs. Zuber's husband, Luke, for figuring out our overflow technology.
- ❖ On the **January calendar**, you will notice not a lot going on! I hope that I'll be able to add some basketball and volleyball games, but we are waiting to see. Pray that it becomes safe enough in the minds of those in charge for our kids to play!
- ❖ Teachers were scheduled to return on Monday, January 4th, but I have decided that we will all return on Tuesday, January 5th. I know you all join me in thanking our teachers for all they've done this year so far. The day-to-day has changed a lot and they have handled it with grace!

- ❖ There will not be **Bingo** during January. If something changes, I'll let everyone know.
- ❖ If Illinois moves into the next phase, we will begin planning our **Trivia Night** in February and plan to have it April 17th. If nothing changes, we will be forced to cancel it. The **Soup Supper** has already been cancelled.

Prayer for Families

Loving God,

During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.

Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.

For this we pray.

Amen.

