

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School 1331 N. Main Street Elkhart, IN 46514 574-264-4855 Website: stselkhart.com

STS Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk.....

Happy Friday Spartan Families,

Thank you for another great week at St. Thomas. After four weeks, our virtue program is up and running well. Thank you to all those in Art class who have helped design our large posters! Next week we move to "honesty," and will focus on that virtue until December 1.

The Priest vs Seminarian game last Friday was a blast, to say the least. The St. John Bosco Jam was very well attended by many different parishes. I was pleased to see so many of our families, both church and school, in attendance. We're attaching a few pictures from the event - I even spotted a "surrender cobra" on the seminarian bench as the Priests closed the night with a 58-48 victory.

Current Family 2024-2025 Registration

We sent registration for next school year home to our current families on Monday. If you still need to submit, please do so using the following link Current Family Registration. After 11:59pm, Friday, December 1, we will be opening early registration for the general public. If your seat is not reserved, it will be added to the wait list for next year.

Spring School Choice

The Spring School Choice window is now open. If you missed the fall application deadline, please reach out to Mrs. Gleason in the Main Office to submit your application.

Traffic Patterns Returning to Normal

Thank you for your patience this year with the change in drop off and pick up procedures while we waited for construction to be complete. Barriers are being removed. A map is below showing routing for pick up and drop off.

As we enter the weekend, please also find the honor roll for the first quarter attached. Join me in congratulating these students on their accomplishment, they've worked hard to achieve academic success.

Until Monday, I hope your time with family and friends is restful.

All the best in Christ,

Chris

Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only Love can do that! ~Rev. King

DATES!!!

Middle School Harvest Dance Party

Friday, November 10 6—8:30 PM Elliott Hall

Thanksgiving Break

11/20/23-11/24/23

Advent Wreath Making

12/3/23

More information below

Early Dismissal Start Christmas Break End Quarter 2

Friday, December 22 12:30 PM

NO AFTERCARE

Early Dismissal

Tuesday, February 13 1 PM

NO AFTERCARE

KEYS—KEYS—KEYS!

We love our volunteers and the community use our building...but...

**If you have a key or door fob from an activity that is no longer ongoing, please bring your keys and fobs to the St.

Thomas School Office**



As we continue to remember our dearly departed brothers and sisters during the month of November...

A reminder from Father Logan Parrish's homily from the weekend of 11/5/2023

The Psalm of Purgatory:

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared."

Psalm 130:1-4

Missed it? Listen here: https://on.soundcloud.com/PmCkm



Please join in the Fun for our Donuts with St. Nick December 9th from 9-11am

- Doors open at 8:45
- Cost is \$25 for Family and \$5 for each additional adult
- Follow the link below to Sign up or send in your form (included below) to the office by December 1st

https://forms.gle/SzVpPqb4RxhzCchdA

Would you like to help at the event? Do you have a teen in need of service hours to complete this semester?

Follow this link to sign up!

https://signup.com/go/TzWWvmx

Book Fair Success!

Happy Friday! A huge thank you to Brittany Hollowell for leading our book fair. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped Brittany with setting up, running the day to day and packing up. I truly appreciate each of you. Thanks to all the parents and staff that shopped at our fair, your purchases help bring books to our classrooms and library. Enjoy your weekend and happy reading!

Mrs. Liz Baker ~ St. Thomas the Apostle School Librarian



Remember! Milk is included w/ lunch order.

Individual milks will be charged at full price regardless of lunch status.

DON'T FORGET!!!

THE CUT OFF FOR LUNCH ORDERING FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK IS

5 PM FRIDAY

November, December, & January Menus Open for Ordering on Boonli Site

BE PART OF THE ACTION!!!

St. Thomas Gymnasium Host Volunteer Opportunities

Concessions, Set up, Admissions, Clean up, and Scoreboard

Sigh Up Here!!

Help make STS events welcoming to all and support our facilities!

2023 Volleyball Hosting

https://signup.com/go/PcGRkHx

Do you have pictures that could be used in the yearbook?

Attention all parents, coaches, club leaders, and more! Is there a game, play, or other special event that you would love to see in this year's yearbook. Get your pictures to the St. Thomas yearbook coordinator Evelynn Ponce

at <u>yearbook@stselkhart.com</u> or upload directly

to https://plicbooks.com/go/C54N7Q .

SAVE THESE MUSICAL DATES!!!!!

Wednesday, December 13th—Preschool Christmas Program at 6:30pm
Thursday, December 14th - K-3 Christmas Program at 6:30pm
Tuesday, December 19th - Band Christmas Concert at 6:30pm
Tuesday, March 26th - 4th/5th Music Program at 6:30pm
Thursday, May 16th - Middle School Spring Program at 6:30pm
Tuesday, May 21st - Spring Band Concert at 6:30pm

~~~PTO Updates~~~

Would you like to help plan our Donuts With Santa?

Email Amyrasler@gmail.com

We need someone to help plan the decorations and food options! We will set up a committee planning meeting soon based on availability.

Would you like to spoil our teachers with a carry-in lunch?

Follow the link below to sign up for a month!

https://signup.com/go/VmKXrMe

Do you have an awesome idea for a PTO social event?

Please let us know, we are looking for new ideas for November! Roller Skating Party, Hockey Night, Restaurant Give Back Nights? If you'd like to assist with planning and scheduling please email amyrasler@gmail.com Y A RANDER R

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Spartan Honor Roll

First Quarter

August 16, 2023 - October 13, 2023

All students in grades 5-8 are eligible for the Honor Roll. Students that are included on the St. Thomas Honor Roll are determined by the grades appearing on their quarter report cards. The classes in which the children receive instructions once or twice a week, count for half of the honor points of a class in which instruction takes place five days.

3.75 to 4.0 GPA, No F in any subject

Conduct no lower than B-, no more than 1 detention, no suspensions.

Grade 8
Kariya Byer
Sophia Culp
Grace Dickey
Henry Dougherty
Liam Nickell
Sullivan Osowski
Olivia Snell

Teejay Topolski

Grade 7 Leo Coates Luke Datzman Natalee DeShone Brenda Gonzalez Annabella Guzman Alejandro Jaurer **Emmaly Kwasny** Nico Melvin Caleb Micolavon Furstenrecht Claire Owens Vincenzo Porpiglia Stephen Rozow Henry Saleh **Graham Smith** Madelyn Smith Dominic Tinervia Ava Zurek

Grade 6
Laura Aguirre
Seth Amrein
Brielle Harman
Cecilia Hicks
Natalie Kiefer
Avery LeBaron
Gavin LeBaron
Quintin Martens
Max Mullins
Francis O'Neil
Emery Pickard
Jazmin Vasquez
Landon Williams

Grade 5 Kaley Anderson Meredith Bailey Eliana Burggraf Morgan Chiu **Cameron Conley** Dylan Cowdrey Jacob Dykes Isaac Fruth **Jacob Mahoney** Avery Manzuk Colin Metz Isabelle Murray Margaret Reverman Nicholas Szabo Jozsef Szabo Stella Szymanowski Concetta Varacalli

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School High Honor Roll

First Quarter August 16, 2023 - October 13, 2023

All students in grades 5-8 are eligible for the Honor Roll. Students that are included on the St. Thomas Honor Roll are determined by the grades appearing on their quarter report cards. The classes in which the children receive instructions once or twice a week, count for half of the honor points of a class in which instruction takes place five days.

3.5 to 3.74 GPA, No F in any subject Conduct no lower than B-, no more than 1 detention, no suspensions.

Grade 8
Joseph Cappelletti
Foster
Quinn Miller
Agostino Varacalli

<u>Grade 7</u> Gavin Franger Kaylee Sawyer Grade 6
Landon Babcock
Aiden Conley
Crew Craven
Elijah Dibley
Madeline Grimm
Tenley Montague
Elise Rinehart
Joseph Rozow

Grade 5
Colt Craven
Ethan Dickey
Wyatt Dickey
Agostino Lacopo
Isabelle Miller
Allura Osowski
Isabella Sanchez
Maya Washington

JOHN BOSCO JAM

St. Thomas the Apostle School Gym Friday, November 3, 2023

Full House, Great Time, Exciting Play, Sportsmanship, All to the Glory of God!









Help Us Make a Difference In Our Community!

This year the school is participating in the Salvation Army's "Red Ribbon Laundry Basket Project"! Each classroom has a basket that needs to be filled with household items that will then be distributed to needy families in Elkhart. See the flyer below for more details! Click on your child's teacher to sign up for how you can help our students make a difference!

ITEMS DUE DECEMBER 6TH!



2023-2024 Salvation Army Red Ribbon Service Basket Project

Our St. Thomas the Apostle classrooms are collecting items as a service project this Advent. Please feel free to add extra or double any household items that you feel may be helpful. All items should be dropped off at the school by Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Thank you for your help!

Please click on your child's classroom sign up to donate:

Mrs. Frick Preschool

Mrs. Tripp Pre-K

Mrs. Martinez Kindergarten

Mrs. Shetterly Kindergarten

Mrs. Culp 1st Grade

Mrs. Vickers 1st Grade

Mrs. Miller 2nd Grade

Miss Yeakey 2nd Grade

Mrs. Szymanowski 3rd Grade

Mrs. Yeakey 3rd Grade

Mrs. Wilsey 4th Grade

Miss Jondle 5th Grade

Mrs. Oxley 6th Grade

Mrs. Ponce 6th Grade

Mrs. Kiefer 7th Grade

Mrs. Vervynckt 7th Grade

Mrs. Baich 8th Grade

Mrs. Camp 8th Grade

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

Lunch Room Updates

Dear families,

Thank you for your participation in our school lunch program. It is truly a joy to serve the kiddos every day and I am happy to see them enjoying the new menu options. We have more variety in the next few weeks including Salisbury Steak and Lasagna roll ups!!! YUM[©] Please log in to Boonli to order. If you do not have a Boonli account, email me for instructions at ldykes@stselkhart.com.

Please encourage your children to choose fresh fruits and vegetables at lunch. We offer a variety every day. Let's try to have at least one fruit or vegetable on that plate[©]

*****Here are few reminders and notifications.

*Please order by 5pm on Friday for the following week. We still have many who are forgetting to order especially at the beginning of the month. Menus for the following month are open weeks in advance.

*It is ok to bring a lunch from home and order hot lunch if your child is extra hungry.

*We are OFFER VS. SERVE. Each child needs to pick a grain, a fruit and/or veggie and a meat/meat alternate for a complete meal.

*Bottled water price is now .50cents.

***Currently, there is a nationwide milk carton shortage. We are working with suppliers to ensure we have the proper selections for the students. Unfortunately, prices have increased significantly. Starting January 8th, milk prices will go up to .**75 cents per carton**. This price is for all students ordering ala carte. If you order hot lunch, *milk comes with the lunch*. Please do not order extra. We have water available if your child is still thirsty. Bottled water is available for .50cents or they may fill up their own water container at the fountain.

A HUGE THANKS to all our volunteers in the lunch room. You make our day brighter and we appreciate all your help!!!

Sincerely,

fisa Dykes/Food Service Director

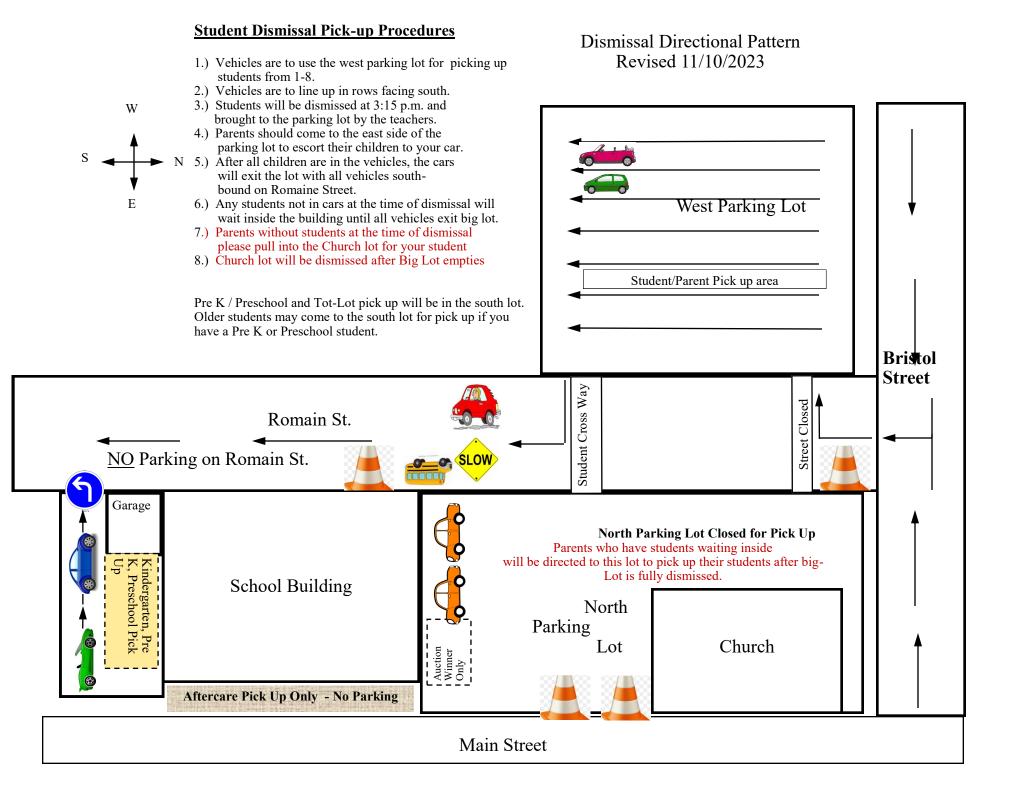
Color Your Lunch Tray!

Choose 3 or more food groups

Pick at least ½ cup fruit and/or vegetable



Student Drop Off Procedures—A.M. Morning Directional Drop Off Pattern Revised 01/22/2020 1). Students may be dropped off beginning at 7:00 a.m. 2). Parents should enter the north parking lot from Romaine Street and exit on to Main St. W 3). Parents needing to EXIT VEHICLES FOR ANY REASON should park in one of the parking lots. The drop off zone is for that only. Please have students ready to exit the vehicle to make traffic flow as smoothly as possible. 4.) Please use the full length of the sidewalk for drop off. Pull forward to allow more students to be dropped off. West Parking Lot 5.) Please remember to ALTERNATE entering from North and South to help prevent backup into Bristol Street. **Pre K and Preschool** will be in the south playground/ parking lot. You may drop your K-8 student(s) in the north lot and then turn right onto Main Street and turn into the south lot for Pre K and Preschool. Bristol Street Romain St. Garage Sidewalk extends all along the building. Please use it. Student Drop Off Area Main Office Door school Drop off Pre K and **School Building** North Parking Lot Church Do not enter in the A.M. Main Street





DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					A	
3 St. Thomas Parish Advent Wreath Making	4	5	6 All School Mass 8:15 AM PTO Mtg after Mass	7	8	9 Donuts with St. Nick
After 10:30 Mass	B	C	D	A	В	9—11 AM
10	11	12	13 All School Mass 8:15 AM	14	15	16
1 E 3 M 4	C	D	A	В	C	
17	18	19	20 All School Mass 8:15 AM	21	22 End Qtr 2 Early Dismissal 12:30 PM No Aftercare	23
1 4	D	A	В	С	D	
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2 1	CHRISTM	AS BREAK	X ~ NO SC	CHOOL ~	RETURN 1/8	/23
31	*	N	Hoew	P	ecu	



JOIN US IN ELLIOTT HALL FOR A
FAMILY ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP
\$40 PER FAMILY

DECEMBER

3

AFTER 10:30 MASS

LUNCH AND ALL OF YOUR SUPPLIES ARE PROVIDED SUCCINCT CREATIONS WILL GUIDE US THROUGH TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL WREATHS. EVERYONE WELCOME PLEASE REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 26TH





Giving Tree



Through your generosity each year, St. Thomas school is able to provide Scrip gift certificates to families in our own school community who could use a little extra help this Christmas.

For every \$10 you donate, we will place an ornament on our giving tree in the Commons with your family name written on it. Our goal is to completely cover the tree with ornaments. By doing this, we will be assured of helping our families have a Merrier Christmas!!

Giving for this program must be completed by Friday December 15th

Donation \$	Family Name
	Please make checks payable to St. Thomas

Or Follow the QR Code to pay online and enter your family name Google Form





Teacher & Staff Christmas Scrip Gift Program















Each year, your St. Thomas PTO organizes a gift collection of donations from school families who would like to participate in our Teacher and Staff Christmas Scrip Gift Program. The donations are compiled and presented to all teachers and staff in the form of a "Scrip of Choice" certificate. The certificates are redeemable for any Scrip gift card available through the St. Thomas Scrip Program. Along with the certificate, each teacher and staff member will receive a note with the names of every family who participated in the program that year. The Teacher & Staff Christmas Scrip Gift Program allows our families to show their appreciation to every teacher and staff member at this special time of year.

We know that many families like to give their own gifts to the teachers, and we encourage this!! This program is completely voluntary and made available simply as a way to make it easier for you to show your appreciation for everyone on the staff. Any amount is appreciated! It adds up very quickly. Thank you in advance for your participation. The teachers and staff are very appreciative of this program.

If you would like to give, please complete this form and return it to the office along with your gift **by Friday December 8 or use the QR Code to pay online!**

Family Name:
Gift Amount (makes checks payable to STS Scrip):
Child/Children's Name(s):





ST. THOMAS SPARTANS "MINDFUL MOVERS" CHESS CLUB

Where: Meet at the St. Thomas Commons

When: Starting Tuesday January 16th after school(3:30pm)

Moderator: Lisa Dykes

Chess is great for all ages and especially for growing minds!

It can help kids develop critical thinking skills for academia and for daily life.

Some of these skills include:

*Problem solving *Abstract reasoning

*Calmness under pressure *Patience

*Sportsmanship *Creative thinking

*Pattern recognition *Strategic thinking

*Logic *Attention to detail

*Discipline *Explaining difficult concepts *Collaboration

Come join our club January 16th !!!

We will meet every other Tuesday.

Chess boards will be available or can bring your own.

Timers are welcome.

If you plan to have your child (ren) attend please email Lisa Dykes at ldykes@stselkhart.com



Spartan JV Volleyball

November 4th: 9AM @ St. Thomas

November 5th: 3PM @ St. Monica

November 12th: 2PM @ St. Thomas

December 1st: 8PM @ Queen of Peace

December 2nd: 12PM @ St. Matthew

December 3rd: 3PM & 4PM @ St. Thomas

Spartan Varsity Volleyball

November 4th: 11 AM @ St. Pius

November 6th: 6 PM @ Queen of Peace

November 10: 8 PM @ St. Thomas

December 1st: 6 & 8 PM @ St. Thomas

December 3rd: 3 & 4 PM @ St. Pius



UPDATED NOVEMBER 2023 MENU!

UPDATED 10/27/23

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November Lunch Menu 2023

St. Thomas the Apostle School

Wed Thu Fri Sat	I Penne w/ Pepperoni and Romaine and alfredo sauce/ cheese calzone cheese salad roll	8 10 11 Mini Corn Chicken Cheese Dogs nuggets quesadilla/	14 15 18 18 Romaine chef Grilled cheese Chicken patty Lasagna roll salad w/turkey/ sandwich/fries sandwich/ baked beans	22 24 25 No school No school No	29 30 Hot turkey Mini corn
Tue		7 Pepperoni Pizza	14 Romaine chef Grilled cheese salad w/narkey/ sandwich/fries roll	21 No school	28 29 Fish sticks/roll Hot turkey
Mon		6 Mini berry French Toast w/hash browns	13 Salisbury 1 steak/roll	20 No school	27 Chicken nug-
Sun		5	12	61	26

Lunch includes veggies/fruit/milk Happy Thanksgiving!!!



Saft	4	11	18	25	
Fri	3 PICTURE RETAKE 8 ABSENCE DAY John Bosco Jame7:30 PMSTS Gym B	10 MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE—Elliott Hall 6—8:30 PM C	17 D	24	
Thu	2 ALL SOULS' DAY	9 Casual Day— \$2 B	J6 C	23 Have a Blessed Thanksgiving OOL	30 D
Wed	1 ALL SAINTS DAY HOLY DAY All School Mass 8:15 AM PTO Mig after Mass D	8 All School Mass 8:15 AM	All School Mass 8:15 AM B	$\frac{22}{k} \sim NO SCHOO$	All School Mass 8:15 AM
Tue		7 D	14 A	Thanksgiving Break	28 B
Mon		C	13 D	20 That	27 A
Sun		LS.	12	19	26



St. Thomas the Apostle School 2023 - 2024 Academic Calendar

Updated August 14, 2023

August 2023									
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31					

14-15 Teacher work days 16 First Day for Students 24 Parent Night 6 —7:30 PM

January 2024									
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1-5 Christmas Break 8 Classes Resume 15 Martin Luther King Jr. – No School

	September 2023									
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4 Labor Day - No School 7 Curriculum Day—No School 8 Mission Day—No School

	February 2024								
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14 Ash Wednesday19 President's Day - No School

	October 2023									
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
29	30	31								

13 End of Quarter 1 19-23 Washington DC Trip 27 Fall Break - No School

	March 2024									
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31										

15 End of Quarter
 29 Good Friday—No School

31 Easter Sunday

November 2023									
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26	27	28	29	30					

20-24 Thanksgiving Break

April 2024						
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1-5 Spring Break

December 2023						
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22 End of Quarter 2 Dismissal at 12:30 pm 25-29 Christmas Break - No School

May 2024						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27		29	30	31	

27 Memorial Day—No School 31 Last Day of School Dismissal at 12:30 pm

End of Grading Periods

1st Quarter	October 13	40
2nd Quarter	December 22	44
3rd Quarter	March 15	48
4th Quarter	May 24	48
•	•	180

Key No School

End of Quarter Important Dates

