

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 St. Thomas Families,

As we approach Thanksgiving Break, I wanted to take a moment and reflect on the first semester thus far. We've had tremendous success with helping our students form a closer relationship with Christ through adoration. We've seen both our JV girls and Varsity boys bring home ICCL soccer championships. And our students are achieving their academic goals every day by coming prepared to do their work in class.

Students are growing in Mind, Body, and Spirit at St. Thomas due to your faith and your support at home. Thank you for all you do for our teachers, our staff, and most importantly your students.

I am also very thankful the construction is finished. One final thank you for your attention to detail as traffic patterns have resumed back to normal. I appreciate you pulling all the way forward and making sure students exit on the passenger side of the vehicle during morning drop-off.

A Few Friendly Reminders:

Current Family Registration is open until 11:59pm, Friday, December 1. Registration Link. We need this information so we can appropriately staff for next school year. We have been growing and will close classes if numbers rise.

The State Spring School Choice window is open. Contact Mrs. Gleason to submit your application or if you would like more information.

I hope you enjoy your Thanksgivings. We are out of school, but weekly church services are still Saturday at 4:30pm, Sunday: 8:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm. We usually attend the 4:30 service on Saturday, I hope to see you there! Until the 27th, please use the time to recharge and spend time with family and friends.

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

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



DATES!!!

Thanksgiving Break

11/20/23-11/24/23

End STS SCRIP Program

November 30, 2023 See Parish Office Notice on Page 2

Advent Wreath Making

12/3/23 after 10:30 AM Msss More information below

Donuts with St. Nick

12/9/23

8:45-11~AM Forms and sign up 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

SCRIP Program

Program ending November 30th, 2023

For many years, St Thomas School has had a SCRIP fundraiser. This program raised money that was used throughout the school for larger purchases such as new desks, SMART boards and kitchen equipment. The program also helped to offset the cost of tuition to parents by providing a rebate program as an incentive in purchasing SCRIP.

Participation in the program has been lagging in recent years. This may be because the implementation of the School Choice Program has allowed for close to 80% of our families to receive School Choice vouchers. As a result, the number of families needing the SCRIP rebates has diminished. It could also be because family spending habits have shifted.

According to IRS regulations, this program needs to be run 90% by volunteers. Employees of the school or parish should not be running this program. We have made requests to the community for an individual or individuals to take over the SCRIP program as volunteers, but it has been a number of years since anyone has stepped forward to take on this volunteer position.

For the last 3 years, the diocese has flagged our program and requested that we close the program if sales did not increase and if volunteer help is not found. Due to the decrease of sales and volunteers, we have made the decision to discontinue this program completely. November 30, 2023 will be the last day that the St. Thomas School SCRIP program will be available.

We thank all of you who have been faithful in supporting our school with your SCRIP purchases over the years. We are passionate in providing a Catholic education to all that desire to come to St. Thomas School and cannot do this without the support of our entire Parish.



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

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**





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

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



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



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





Teacher & Staff Christmas 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 Gift Program. The donations are compiled and presented to all teachers and staff in the form of a Visa Gift Card. Along with the gift card, 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 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 (checks payable to St. Thomas School):
Child/Children's Name(s):





Giving Tree



Through your generosity each year, St. Thomas school is able to provide 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
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Please make checks payable to St. Thomas

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





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



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



UPDATED NOVEMBER 2023 MENU!

UPDATED 10/27/23

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November Lunch Menu 2023

St. Thomas the Apostle School

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



DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					A	
St. Thomas						
9 Parish	4	5	6 All School Mass 8:15 AM	7	8	9
Advent Wreath			PTO Mtg after			Donuts with St. Nick
Making		~	Mass		_	Stay tuned!
After 10:30 Mass		С	D	A	В	,
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10 P			8:15 AM			
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St. Thomas the Apostle School 2023 - 2024 Academic Calendar

Updated August 14, 2023

August 2023								
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>	18	19		
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 Quarter29 Good Friday—No School

31 Easter Sunday

	November 2023								
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
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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31						

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
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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

