

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

August 18,
2017



Here we go!

We are excited to welcome everyone to STA for the 2017-18 school year. We are excited to announce that we have **305 students**. This is 35 more students than we had last year. We are grateful to see our school community continue to grow.

Please carefully read this message as it outlines plans for the first week and any procedural changes for the upcoming school year. The parking lot will be more crowded than usual for the first day, and I ask everyone to be patient as we adjust to the new year.

It was great to see everyone who came to New Parent Orientation and the Welcome Back Night. Special thanks to the Home and School Association for their help in running these events. These events are a great way to kick off the school year.

See you Monday!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

*PBIS Teach Day -
Wednesday, August
23*

*Back to School Night
- Thursday, August
31 6:15-7:30*

*Labor Day- NO
SCHOOL - Monday,
September 4*

*PK-5th Grade Open
House - Tuesday,
September 5 6:00-
7:00*

*6/7/8 Open House -
Thursday,
September 7 6:00-
7:30*

Reminders for the First Week

Please remember the following as we start school on Monday:

- There is NO AM Care on Monday. We will have PM CARE that day. The first day of AM Care is Tuesday, August 22.
- We will dismiss at 2:30 PM on Monday. Any student not picked up by 2:45 PM will go to after care. We will also be dismissing at 2:30 PM on Wednesday (and every other Wednesday the rest of the year).
- Students must come in school uniform on the first day.
- If you did not drop off your school supplies at the Welcome Back Night, please make sure to do so on Monday.
- Parents may walk their child to the room on the first day. We ask that parents of students in Kindergarten and up please allow their child to walk to their classroom on their own after the first day.
- Students may arrive at 7:45 AM and must be in their classroom ready to start the day at 8:00 AM. Any student not ready to start the day at this time is tardy. Students do NOT need to get a tardy slip from 8:00-8:15 AM. They can go directly to their classroom. Any student arriving after 8:15 AM must report to the office for a tardy slip.
- Any student who did not order a Hot Lunch by July 20 must bring a lunch from home for August and September. October lunch forms will go home in the beginning of August. Please make sure to check your child's backpack for this form and other important forms from the school.

Changes to Drop-Off Procedure

Starting Monday, all students and families should enter the building using the south door off of the parking lot for arrival. We will have an administrator holding this door every morning. After 8:15 AM, families can enter the building through the main door off of Woodlawn. We have made this change to help make arrival safer and cut down on the amount of time students need to walk to get to their classrooms.

Please anticipate the parking lot being more crowded for the first day, as many families like to park their car to walk their child in. I would encourage families to try to arrive earlier to adjust for this. Please be patient in the parking lot and follow the directions of the parking lot parent volunteers.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty

Assist with PBIS Teach Day Snacks – August 23

Parish Picnic – Sunday, September 11 10:00-1:00 PM

Flag Football and Volleyball Coaches – See Coach Satterfield or Alton Brooks

Finally, please remember that you should never drop your child off at the main door off of Woodlawn Avenue. We do this to make sure our students stay safe at arrival. Enter through the alley off of Kimbark to drop your child off.

Lunch Orders

We will be using FSP's online lunch order system for the upcoming school year. You need to complete the following steps to sign up:

1. Go to www.fspro.boonli.com
2. Click on "Create an Account"
3. Use the password sta178 to set up your account
4. Order your lunches and submit them

Lunch orders are due on the 15th of the month prior (so October lunches are due September 15th). You can contact Ms. Glenn, our lunch coordinator, at hotlunch@stapostleschool.com if you have any questions.

Also, the Archdiocese is requiring all families to either complete a lunch application or a household income survey. Please complete one of the following by September 15th. The survey is [here](#).



Aspire Testing Results

We received the Aspire individual student reports from the assessment the 3rd-8th grade students took last April. As a school, we demonstrated great growth on this test that reflects the amazing work our school community does each day. We will be sending these reports home with the students during the first week of school. Please contact Mr. Gallo or Mrs. Damico if you have any questions about your child's results.

Solar Eclipse

There will be a solar eclipse during our first day of school. This is a rare and exciting cosmic event, but also one that could be dangerous to people's eyes. We want to ensure that all of our students are safe and that no student damages their eyes looking at the eclipse. For that reason, we are going to have indoor recess on the first day of school and dismiss from the gym. Please plan on picking your child up from the gym on the first day.

PBIS Teach Day

In order to make sure our students understand expectations at all locations in the building, we will be having a PBIS Teach Day on Wednesday, August 23. We will gather as a school in the gym to discuss expectations for the year, and students will travel around the building as a class and be taught expectations for behavior. Kindergarten through 3rd grade will have their sessions in the morning, and 4th through 8th grade will have theirs in the afternoon. Teach Day will help ensure our students stay safe, take responsibility, and act Christ-like all year at STA.



STA Parish Picnic

Our parish will be having its annual parish picnic on Sunday, September 10. There will be a parish-wide Mass at 10:00 AM followed by a picnic in the courtyard. All STA school families are welcome to attend. The parish is looking for volunteers to help with the event. Any interested parent should contact Lisa Couch at lisajcouch@sbcglobal.net. Parents can also complete service hours by helping with the event.

Fundraising Opportunity with Coca-Cola

Below is information from Ms. Acton on a fundraising opportunity for STA through Coca-Cola:

If your family, friends or co-workers enjoy Coca-Cola products, please encourage them to use codes inside Coca-Cola bottle caps, 12-pack cartons and larger packages to donate to our school. Each code (depending on size of package) can be a \$.05 to \$.30 donation, and entering codes can be as easy as scanning them with a smartphone and clicking once to confirm.

Just head to www.Coke.com/give and register to get started with Coca-Cola Give. You'll donate by signing in and choosing St. Thomas the Apostle as your recipient school. (Search the 60615 zip code, and St. Thomas is on the second page of local schools.)

This week only - Coca-Cola Give is celebrating back to school by doubling up donations! Join us by scanning or entering codes from your favorite beverages now through August 20th.

Families who send their summary report (that will be e-mailed to you) and have a donation total of \$5 or more will receive 1 NUT card for their child for every \$5 they raise.



General Reminders

- We will be sending home the packets with information on our various after-school enrichment programs for the fall. Please make sure to check this packet and sign up for any clubs you are interested in.

- We will not have an all-school Mass the first few weeks of school as our students adjust to returning to class. Our first Mass will be Tuesday, September 12 at 8:30 AM.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com