

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

August 25,
2017



Dear STA Families,

We have finished our first week of school! Everyone at STA has been thrilled to welcome our families back to school. All of our teachers and students have been busy practicing routines and procedures to make sure everyone is safe and we all understand our expectations for each other everywhere in the building. This culminated in our Teach Day Wednesday, where we practiced school procedures everywhere in the building. Our students have done a great job following these procedures, and we want them to keep doing this all year.

Please remember that we have our Back to School Night Thursday at 6:15 PM in the STA gym. This event is mandatory for all families. We will be covering important school news and procedures, and announcing plans for the upcoming year.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

STA Advisory Board Meeting –

Wednesday, August 30 (7:00-8:30 AM)

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

Back to School Night

We will have our Back to School Night Thursday, August 31 from 6:15-7:45 PM in the school gym. We will be distributing handbooks to returning parents and going over expectations and plans for the upcoming year. We will also have representatives from Home and School and our athletics program talk, and we will be announcing our plans for Reach for the Stars 2017. Please remember that this event is mandatory for all families. We look forward to seeing everyone there on Thursday.

Reminders for the Start of the Year

Please remember the following as the school year begins:

- K-8th grade students dismiss at 2:30 every Wednesday, and PK dismisses at 2:15 every Wednesday because we have staff meetings during that time.
- AM Care begins at 7:00 AM every day. PK/K/1st grade students will go to room 108 for AM care after 7:15 AM, and 2nd-8th grade students will go to the gym. Anyone who arrives before then should go to the school office.
- Students must come in school uniform every day unless it is a gym day for their class or they are using a NUT card.
- 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.
- Any student coming to school with a cell phone must turn it in to the school office. Students are not allowed to have cell phones on them or in their locker or backpack during the school day.
- We are holding Extended Day in three different locations after school. PK students will be in room 108, K-2nd grade students will be in room 211, and 3rd-8th grade students will be in the cafeteria. Please check in to the office to pick up your child, and do NOT go directly to the room to pick them up.
- We have the following gym schedule for this year. Please remember your student needs to come in their gym uniform on this day:
 - Thursday – PK3, PK4, 4th-8th Grade
 - Friday – PK Blended, K-3rd Grade

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty

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

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

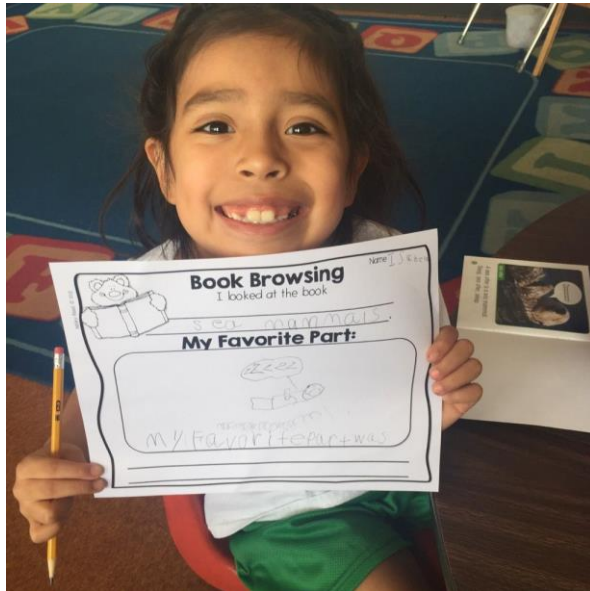
Reminders to Drop-Off Procedure

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.

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

Free and Reduced Lunch Application

The Archdiocese is requiring all families to either complete a lunch application or a household income survey. We have the potential to get more federal funding for this year, but this is dependent on having as many families as possible complete either the application or the survey. Please complete one of the following by September 15th. The survey is [here](#).



Aspire Testing Results

We sent home Aspire results on Monday for students who were in 3rd-7th grade last year. Please make sure you got these results from your child. If you have any questions about your child's results, please contact Mr. Gallo or Mrs. Damico.

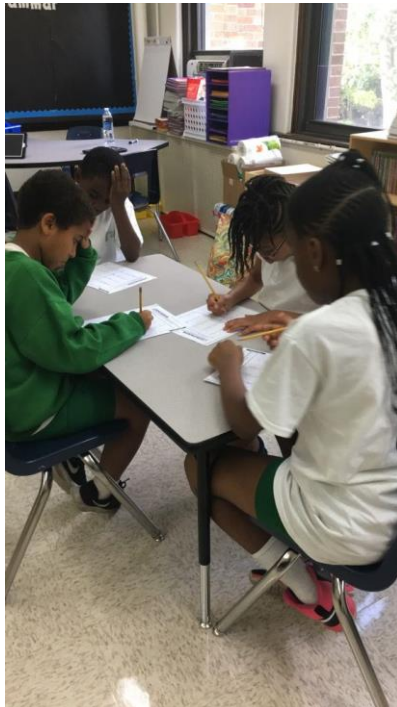
Fast Direct and Track It Forward

Fast Direct (our online grading and communication system) is up and running. We sent home the login information for new families home this week with your children. Please make sure you got this information and set up your account.

We also sent emails to all of our new families with information on how to set up your Track It Forward account to log your service hours. This email expires in 6 days, so please make sure to do it this week. Remember that all service hours must be logged in Track It Forward in order to count towards your 20 hours of service.

Yoga Classes for Pre-K

We are excited to start yoga classes for our Pre-K students on Tuesday mornings. We are partnering with Buddha Belly Yoga, who will be leading 30 minute yoga classes for each Pre-K class in the gym on Tuesdays. This will serve as an additional “special” class just for our Pre-K students.



Notes from Home and School

Please see the note below from the Home and School Association:

*Used Uniform Sale and Spirit Wear Sale Will be Thursday
8/31/17 from 5pm to 6pm!*

*Fun Lunch is Tuesday 10/31/17! Please remember completed form and
money due Friday 10/6/17! You may pick up a Fun*

Lunch form in the school office.

SERVICE HOURS, SERVICE HOURS, SERVICE HOURS!

*Please log into Track It Forward, "Click" Event Sign Up and scroll
through and choose service hours!*

*First HSA meeting is 9/20/17 from 6:30-7:30pm in the Parish Hall! All
Parents are welcome!*

*If you have any questions please
email homeandschool@stapostleschool.com*

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

- Flyers to sign up for after-school enrichment clubs and middle school clubs went out this week. Make sure to get these in ASAP.
- 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

