

# St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

January 26,  
2018



Dear STA Families,

Catholic Schools Week is here! This important week provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our school and kick off registration for the 2018-19 school year. It all begins with Family Mass on Sunday at 8:30 AM. All choir members should plan on attending. Any STA student who comes to Mass in their school uniform will earn a NUT card. There is a more detailed schedule below. Please make sure to carefully read this as there are events each day next week.

Sunday also kicks off re-registration for the upcoming school year. We will have an open house that starts after the 8:30 AM Mass Sunday. We will have an exciting announcement that we hope will make re-registration easier for families next year. After that, you will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher for next year.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

## Important Dates

***Catholic Schools  
Week Family Mass  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Lead) –  
Sunday, January 28  
(8:30 AM)***

***Returning Parent  
Open House / Re-  
Registration Opens –  
Sunday, January 28  
(9:30-11:00)***

***Empower Illinois  
Tax Credit  
Scholarship  
Application Open –  
Wednesday, January  
31 (noon)***

***New Parent Open  
House – Wednesday,  
January 31 (6:00-  
7:30 PM)***

## Catholic Schools Week 2018

Catholic Schools Week is from January 28-February 2. We will celebrate our school and the people that make it great. **Please make sure to read this carefully as there are special events each day this week.** Below is a schedule for the week:

Sunday, January 28 – *We Celebrate Our Parish*

- Family Mass (1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> lead) – 8:30 AM
- Open House for Returning Families (9:30-11:00 AM, begins in the gym)

Monday, January 29 – *We Celebrate Our Community*

- Dress Down Day – students can wear pajama pants with gym shoes and an STA shirt
- Students write thank you cards to members of the STA community

Tuesday, January 30 – *We Celebrate Vocations*

- All-School Mass (8:30 AM, K leads)
- Vocations Day – look for more information on this from your child's teacher

Wednesday, January 31 – *We Celebrate Our Faculty and Staff*

- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Open House for New Families (6:00-7:30 PM)

Thursday, February 1 – *We Celebrate Our Nation*

- STA Olympics (K-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 2:30 PM)

Friday, February 2 – *We Celebrate Our Students*

- Dress Down Day – students may come out of uniform following the NUT card dress code
- Fun Lunch sponsored by Home and School Association
- Classroom Buddy Activities
- PBIS Reward

## Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty

Assist the Pre-K and K students at lunch (11:00-12:00 daily)

Check for other opportunities on Track It Forward



## Tuition and Fees for 2018-19

We have finalized our tuition and fees for the 2018-19 school year. **We are excited to say that tuition and fees for all K-8 families will be frozen at the 2017-18 rates for next year.** You can find the rates below:

2018-19 Tuition Rates

Number of Children	K-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pre-K
1	\$5,975	\$6,500
2	\$10,676	\$12,850
3+	\$15,575	\$19,050

We also will be providing a discount to returning families who register early. A breakdown of these discounts is below (please note that all fees are per child):

Registration Date	Registration Fee (per child)
By February 9	\$100
February 9-March 29	\$150
After March 29	\$195

Families who register early will also need to pay their materials fee by May 31<sup>st</sup>. We will have open enrollment through March 29, meaning that we will guarantee your spot if you register by then. After that, we will finalize classrooms and cap class sizes. Make

sure to register by March 29 to guarantee your spot for next year. We will be providing some more information on re-registering at the returning family open house on Sunday, January 28.

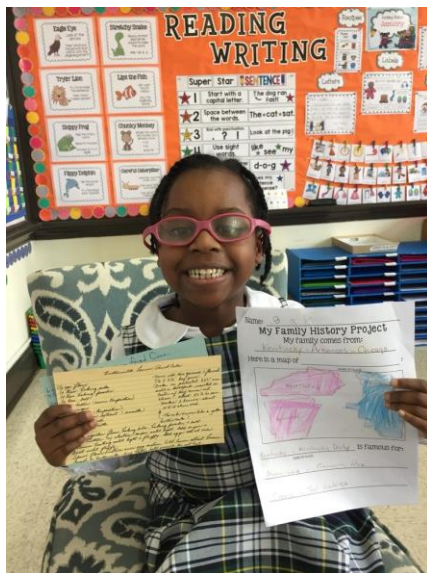
## Tax Credit Scholarship Applications

The Big Shoulders Fund opened their applications up on Monday and received over 12,000 applications this week. They have closed their applications for now given the amount they have received. This reinforces the importance of families applying right when applications open to give families the best chance of receiving a scholarship.

Empower Illinois opens their applications at noon on Wednesday, January 31. They currently have more funds available for scholarships, but anticipate those going quickly as well. **We will be hosting another session to help families apply on Wednesday at noon in the conference room.** Families should arrive by 11:30 AM that day if they need help scanning documents for their applications.

Websites for the Big Shoulders and Empower Illinois SGO are below:

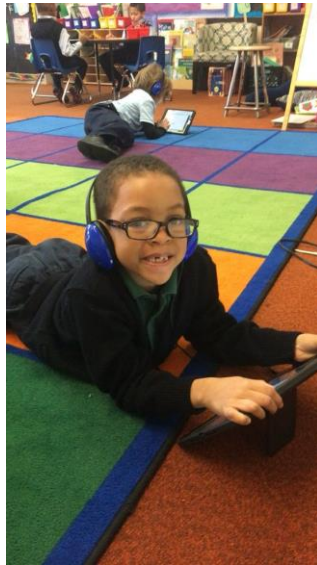
- [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org)
- [www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org](http://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org)



## **Re-Registering for the 2018-19 School Year and Open Houses**

Current STA families are invited to an Open House on January 28th from 9:45-11:00am! Join us for hospitality after Family Mass in the Gym and learn exciting news about the 2018-19 Re-registration process! Then, you are invited to visit your child's grade level classrooms for the 2018-19 school year. We hope to see you there!

We are also hosting an Open House for Prospective families on January 31st from 6:00-7:30 pm. Please share this information with anyone you know who is interested in sending their child to STA! Open Houses offer prospective families the opportunity to learn about the school's faith-based environment, academic curriculum, as well as getting a tour of the building. Families who are interested in attending can sign-up using the link on the STA website.



## **Procedure for Canceling School Due to Weather**

Winter is here, and with it brings the possibility of inclement weather that could force us to cancel school. We will use our School Messenger system (which what we use for these messages) to reach you. This system can send you an email, text message, and phone call. You can also check our website and Facebook page for more information. We will do our best to communicate

this decision as soon as possible, but be prepared for the possibility of this happening early in the morning if there is a large amount of snow overnight.

Any snow days will push our last day of school back. The last day of school is currently scheduled for June 5. It will be pushed back one day for each snow day we take during the year.

### **Intent to Return Forms**

If you have not turned in your intent to return form, please do so ASAP! This information is extremely important for us as we plan our budget and classrooms for next year. For those families that have not submitted your form, we will still take them! A copy of the form is attached, and you can submit them to the school office. We also have copies in the school office for you to take to complete. Your child will get a NUT card if you turn in the form.

### **State of the School**

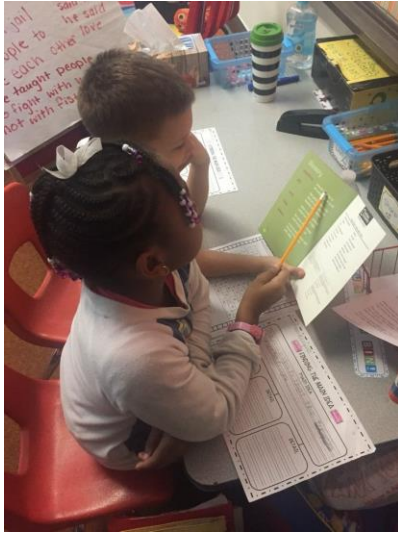
Please remember that our State of the School meeting will be Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 PM in the gym. All families should plan on attending this important meeting. Mrs. Damico and I will update families on the financial state of the school, discuss future plans for the school, and provide update on new initiatives currently going on at STA. Any family who attends will earn 1 service hour.

### **Summer School 2018**

Families have begun inquiring about when we will start summer school this year. We determine the start of summer school based on when the school year ends, and the conclusion of the school year is based on whether we need to take any snow days. Therefore, we do not finalize the start of summer school until later on the winter. We will have more information on summer school at our State of the School meeting.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting**

We will have a 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting to plan the 8<sup>th</sup> grade awards dinner on Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 PM. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents should plan on attending this meeting so that we can prepare for the awards dinner.



## News for Home and School

**STA Pizza Fun Lunch is Friday February 2nd, 2018.** There will be **no hot lunch** that day!! If your child is not going to participate they will need to bring a packed lunch from home. **Order form and money are TODAY Friday January 26th, 2018.** (see order form attached)

**Saturday, February 24th from 6:30- 8:30pm: Father/Daughter Dance in STA Gym - Order form and money due Friday 2/16/18 - No Tickets sold at door**

Look for flyers in your child's backpacks soon!  
\$25/couple, \$5 for each additional child  
see order form attached

**Tuesday, February 28th - Friday, March 2nd**  
Book Fair in Parish Hall

**Saturday, March 10th, from 6:30- 8:30pm: Mother/Son Dance in STA Gym - Order Form and money due Friday 2/23/18 - No Tickets sold at door**

Look for flyers in your child's backpacks soon!  
\$25/couple, \$5 for each additional child  
see order form attached

Login Track It Forward, "Click" Event Sign Up and scroll through and choose service hours! Remember to also login and submit any hours you have completed!!

If you have any questions please  
email [homeandschool@stapostleschool.com](mailto:homeandschool@stapostleschool.com)

### **General Notes**

- Our virtue for this month is good judgement.
- We will have an all-school Mass on Tuesday. Students from all grades will lead this Mass.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [tgallo@stapostleschool.com](mailto:tgallo@stapostleschool.com)