

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

January 6,
2017



STA Families,

Our faculty and staff have been thrilled to have our students back at school. We all enjoyed hearing what the students did over break, and everyone is excited to get back to work in the classrooms.

Teachers are spending time now practicing and reinforcing procedures we established in August. I am going to ask that all of us focus on habits that we may have forgotten about over the holiday break, especially around uniforms and parking lot procedures.

Finally, re-registration for next year is approaching! We are opening registration on January 17. Please look for the re-registration paperwork to come home with your child next week.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

*School Advisory
Board Meeting –
Wednesday, January
11 (7:00-8:30 AM)*

*7th Grade Parent
Meeting – Thursday,
January 12 (5:00-
6:00 PM)*

*Spirit Day (3rd Grade
Leads) – Friday,
January 13*

*Martin Luther King
Jr. Day – NO
SCHOOL – Monday,
January 16*

*2017-18 Re-
Registration Opens –
Tuesday, January 17*

Re-Register for the 2017-18 School Year

We are excited to be opening registration for the 2017-18 school year on January 17, 2017. We will be sending home registration packets with each student the week before registration opens. Below are the tuition rates and registration fees for the 2017-18 school year:

Pre-K Tuition	\$6,450
1 Child (K-8)	\$5,975
2 Children (K-8)	\$10,675
3+ Children (K-8)	\$15,575
Materials Fee	\$400
Registration Fee	\$100-\$195 (dependent on when you register)

You will notice that the tuition rate for one child in kindergarten through 8th grade is frozen at last year's rate. The Pre-K tuition and tuition rates for multiple children have gone up slightly.

We are offering a discount to families who register early. Families can save up to \$95 per child by registering early. See the discount opportunity below:

Registration Date	Registration Fee	Savings
January 17 - February 13	\$100	\$95
February 14 - February 24	\$125	\$70
February 27 - March 13	\$150	\$45
March 14 - March 24	\$175	\$20
April 3 - August	\$195	\$0

Please make sure to register as early as possible. You benefit by saving money on tuition and fees, and our school benefits by getting sufficient time to plan our classrooms for next year. I will be discussing this further at the State of the School meeting on February 9.

Uniform Reminders

I included this reminder in the last newsletter, but I want to continue to remind families to make sure your student comes to school in uniform.

- If students come to school in boots, they must bring school shoes to change into when they arrive. Students can not wear snow boots during the school day.
- Students may wear only a STA sweater or sweatshirt with their school uniform. They are not allowed to wear other sweaters or sweatshirts during the school day. If they are in non-uniform

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – 2nd Grade Parents Lead

Lunch Helpers – Daily throughout the year from 11:00-12:00

Field Trip Chaperones – Please contact your child's teacher if interested

Help Pre-K students pack-up for dismissal – Contact Mrs. Lendi or Mrs. Pruitt



sweaters or sweatshirts, they will be asked to take them off. I would suggest that you make sure your child has a uniform sweater or sweatshirt with them every day during the winter.

- Several students have started wearing non-uniform shoes during the school day. As a reminder, here is the section from the handbook on uniform shoes. Please make sure your child comes to school in uniform shoes.

Boys

<u>Code</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
<p>Preferred is a low top solid black or low top solid white athletic shoe with black or white laces; Navy, black, or dark brown dress shoes are an option</p> <p>Laces must be securely tied.</p> <p>Shoes are always worn with socks</p> <p>Snow boots are only worn outside</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slippers, flip-flops, jellies, croc shoes, sandals, platforms, open-toed, backless shoes • Hiking boots, combat boots, dress boots, cleats, or steel-toed shoes/boots • Athletic shoes with high tops, sparkle lights, or with colored laces. Snow boots when indoors.

Girls

<u>Code</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
<p>Low top solid black or low top solid white athletic shoe with black or white laces; Navy, black, or dark brown dress shoes are an option</p> <p>Laces must be securely tied.</p> <p>Shoes are always worn with socks</p> <p>Snow boots are only worn outside</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slippers, flip-flops, jellies, croc shoes, sandals, platforms, open-toed, backless shoes • Hiking boots, combat boots, dress boots, cleats, or steel-toed shoes/boots • Athletic shoes with high tops, sparkle lights, or with colored laces • Snow boots when indoors <p>Dress shoes with a heel taller than 1.5 inches</p>

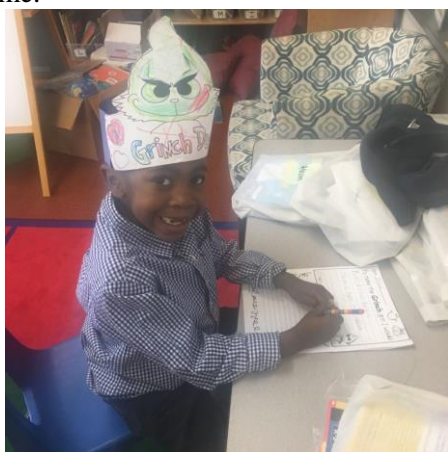
Drop-Off in the Morning

I have seen parents begin dropping off their students in front of the building off of Woodlawn Avenue. Our parking lot procedure states that all families should pull through the parking lot to drop their child off in the morning. This is to make sure our students are safe when arriving in the morning and to prevent traffic from backing up on Woodlawn Avenue. I am going to again remind families to make sure to follow this procedure. Please do NOT drop your child off at Woodlawn Avenue.

Important Events Coming in January

January will be a busy month at STA. Below are some important events coming when we return from break:

- We will also be shooting a promotional video for the school on January 17. We will be providing more information on this closer to the date.
- Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 29. We will have an all school Mass followed by an open house. Returning families will be able to come and meet their teacher for next year at this Sunday open house.
- We are planning a family science night for January 19. More details will come.



School Closing Procedure

Winter has arrived, and this brings the possibility of inclement weather. We will not open school if the weather creates unsafe conditions for bringing children to and from school. If we determine to close school, you will receive a message through School Messenger alerting you of the closure. You will receive an email, text message, and phone call alerting you that school is closed. We will also post news on the closure on our Facebook page, school website, and on the Illinois School Emergency Closure Center. Please make sure to look for this alert and be prepared for a possible school closure if there is severe weather.

Open Houses and Tours at STA

Below is a message from Tareema Jean-Baptiste, who is coordinating admissions for our school:

Share your STA spirit!! Spread the word to friends, family, neighbors...etc about STA! School tours are every Wednesday and Friday at either 8:30am or 9:30am. There will be two open houses this year Jan. 31st from 5-7pm and March 16th from 5-7pm. To register for either a tour or open house please visit our website www.stapostleschool.com or email Tareema Jean-Baptiste tjeanbap@stapostle.com

7th Grade Parent Meeting

We will have a 7th grade parent meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 5:00 PM. All 7th grade parents should plan on attending. We will be discussing plans for the graduation dinner and meeting in committees to make sure we are prepared for the evening.

Mother-Son and Father-Daughter Dances

The Home and School Association is planning a Mother-Son and Father-Daughter Dance in February. The Father-Daughter Dance is Friday, February 3 and the Mother-Son Dance will be on February 10. Save the date for these great school events.

General Reminders.

- I am happy to report that our Thanksgiving Food Drive raised 867 pounds of food which provided 723 quality meals for families in Chicago. Thank you to everyone who donated to this food drive.
- The Revival Theater near STA has exciting opportunities for students and adults. The Revival Theater recently announced improv classes for adults and children which meet right across the street from St. Thomas! The Winter Session begins January 3rd and includes classes for kids as young as 4 and adults too! Classes are conveniently scheduled after school and on weekends. For complete details and to register, visit www.the-revival.com/classes
- Please remember that all families need to sign up on Track It Forward to log your service hours. All families need to complete 20 service hours and log them on Track It Forward. Please contact Mr. Gallo if you need help with your Track It Forward account.
- We need some parent volunteers to help open student lunches from 11:00-12:00 daily. Please let Mr. Gallo or Mrs. Damico know if you are interested. This will count for service hours.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com