

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

September 1,
2017



Dear STA Families,

Thank you to everyone who came to our Back to School Night last night. This night is crucial for making sure we all start our year on a positive note, and I was thrilled to see so many parents there. If you did not attend Back to School Night, please make sure to get your handbook from the school office and sign the acknowledgement form as soon as you can.

We have our classroom open houses this week. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and hear about what will be happening in their class this year. Please make sure you attend this event. PK-5th grade parents have open houses on Tuesday from 6:00-7:00 PM, and middle school parents have their meeting from 6:30-7:30 PM on Thursday. We will also have an eighth grade parent meeting on Thursday from 6:00-6:30 PM before the open house.

Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

**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**

**NUT Card Day -
Fundraiser for
Hurricane Harvey -
Friday, September 9**

**STA Parish Picnic -
Sunday, September
10 10:00 AM**

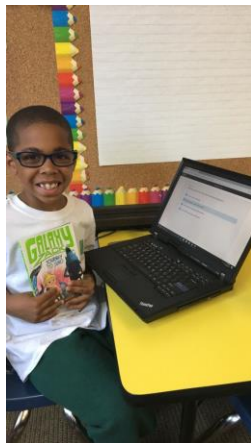
Classroom Open House Nights

We have our classroom open house nights this Tuesday and Thursday. Please plan on attending this important events. You will get the chance to go to your child's classroom, meet their teacher, and understand the classroom expectations for the upcoming year. The dates of the open houses are below:

- Tuesday, September 5 – Pre-K through 5th grade open house from 6:00-7:00 PM. All Pre-K families should meet in the gym for a brief meeting to discuss common Pre-K expectations. At 6:15, Pre-K families will then go to their child's classrooms. K-5th parents should go directly to their child's classroom.
- Thursday, September 7 – Middle school open house night. We will have an eighth grade family meeting from 6:00-6:30 in the gym. We will then have the meeting for all middle school families starting at 6:30 in the gym. The meeting will go to 7:30. We will discuss middle school expectations and all of the teachers will present on what is happening in their classrooms.

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](#).



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**

**Check for other
opportunities on
Track It Forward**

Hurricane Harvey Fundraiser

To help support the victims of Hurricane Harvey, we will be having a fundraiser at STA on Friday, September 8. Any student who brings a contribution can come out of uniform following the NUT card day dress code. Please bring whatever you can contribute, and our suggested donation is \$1. All proceeds will go toward Catholic Charities of Houston.

Track It Forward, Fast Direct, and Class Dojo

These are three programs you will need to make sure you have an account for and check regularly. Information on each one is below:

- Track It Forward – all sign-ups for volunteer hours and logging of hours are done here. All new families should have received an email with information on how to set up their account. Please let me know if you did not get this information.
- Fast Direct – Fast Direct is our online grading system. This program is now “live” and teachers will now be posting grades. Please make sure to check this regularly to monitor your child’s progress.
- Class Dojo – Class Dojo is a tool all of our K-8 teachers use to monitor student behavior. Teachers also post pictures and videos from their classroom on this app. Please contact your child’s teacher if you need help setting up your account.

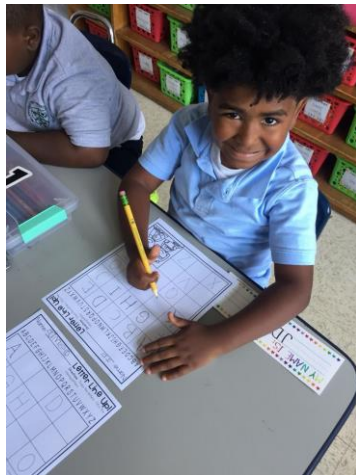


After-School Enrichment Program

Our after-school enrichment programs start on Monday. Children participating in a program immediately after school will report directly to the program's location. Children in programs that start at 5:00 PM can go to extended day free of charge until their program starts. We will have flyers posted around the building with the schedule and location of these programs. Please remember that you need to pick your child up from the office at the end of their program. Any child not picked up 5 minutes after the program ends will go to extended day. If you have any questions about the extended day program, please contact Mrs. Peeples at mpeeples@stapostleschool.com.

Yoga Classes for Pre-K

Yoga classes for our Pre-K students have begun! 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. Please make sure you have turned in the necessary forms for yoga so your child can participate.



Notes from Home and School

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

HSA MEETINGS: the first is Wednesday 9/20/17 from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome!! Remember you get 1 service hour for attending!!

PARENT COFFEE KLATCH: the first is Thursday 9/21/17 from 7:45m – 8:45am in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome! Come with ideas and questions to share with the community and Mr. Gallo!

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 forms in the school office. (please note hot lunch is not served on fun lunch days so if your child is not participating in fun lunch they will need to bring a packed lunch)

TAFFY APPLE SALE: time to start selling STA!! Remember all money raised goes back to the school! **FOR EVERY \$100 SOLD STUDENTS EARN ONE NUT CARD!! FOR EVERY \$100 SOLD PARENTS EARN A CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD, \$100 COSTCO GIFT CARD OR CHAMPAGNE MASSAGE DATE FOR TWO!! COMPLETE ORDER FORMS AND MONEY ARE DUE 10-6-17. HAPPY SELLING!!**

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.

Box-Tops Fundraiser

Below is information from Ms. Acton on a fundraising opportunity for STA:

The first-ever National Box Tops for Education Week is September 24 - 30! Collect your box tops during the month of September on the sheet that was sent home on Friday, September 1st. Turn your sheet into school during National Box Tops for Education Week

(9/24-9/30). Students who turn in a completed box top sheet (35 box tops) with their name on it during National Box Tops for Education Week will earn a NUT card. Families can also enter STA for a chance to win double the box top points: <https://goo.gl/m4igqe>. Thank you!

General Notes

- Congratulations to Mrs. Annie Gough, our third grade teacher in room 208, on getting married this weekend!
- 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