



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR NEW PLAYGROUND

SEPTEMBER 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Thomas the Apostle School
5467 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60615

In a few weeks, St. Thomas the Apostle School will kick-off its annual appeal, *Reach for the STArS*, and hope to inspire their whole school community - school parents, alumni, St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners, community members, and other friends - to give to the appeal in support of a brand new playground.

St. Thomas the Apostle School (STA) is a Pre - K - 8th grade Catholic school in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. The school is located at 5467 S. Woodlawn Ave. and is surrounded by a parking lot, a busy intersection, apartment buildings, and an empty lot directly north of the school building. This empty lot is the future location of the school's new playground. The land for the playground was generously donated by Pioneer Acquisitions. Because the site is located directly north of the school building, teachers and students will be able to easily access the play space during the school day and during the extended day program. Currently, the school's outdoor play space is their parking lot, which is often interrupted by cars driving through the lot.

In an effort to improve the recess experience for their students, STA has partnered with Playworks this year. Playworks works with the school faculty to provide a positive recess experience for every kid. The students are active and learn valuable social-emotional skills with the coaches and STA's new recess coordinator. It is important to school administration that recess is not a forgotten part of the day and that the school faculty works to educate the whole child throughout the entire school day. However, a high-quality, safe play space is still lacking.

"Children need room to play - it's part of social, emotional, and cognitive development. We want our students to have an active play space that is safe. High-quality play spaces are hard to find in an urban setting, and we are lucky to have the opportunity to begin this project, thanks to Pioneer Acquisitions." – said Principal, Tim Gallo

The cost of the project is \$150,000. This includes all of the preparation work that needs to be done to the land itself, drainage, fencing, safe material for students to play on, plus all of the playground equipment itself. The goal is to break ground by the Spring of 2018.

STA is excited to share this news with the community! The official kick-off for the appeal will be on November 1st. During the month of November, all school community members will be asked to support the appeal with either time or treasure. The majority of the school's promotion efforts will take place during the month of November and they will make their final asks on "Giving Tuesday" - a day of giving nationwide (11/29/17).

All donations can be made online through the St. Thomas the Apostle School Give Central page: (<https://www.givecentral.org/location/358/event/13911>), with checks made out to St. Thomas the Apostle School, or with credit card. Those interested in making a donation or learning more about the project can contact Mary Alice Acton, Director of Advancement at STA: macton@stapostleschool.com.



Rendering of Playground