

Excellence in Education

August 22, 2018

www.stthomasmorealhambra.org



St. Thomas More Parish School

Weekly Newsletter

Father in heaven, you have given us a mind to know you, a will to serve you, and a heart to love you. Be with us today in all that we do, so that your light may shine out in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at St. Thomas More School. There are lots of things going on this year, some good, others a bit worrisome. The first day was great fun, meeting up with old friends, welcoming new ones, and gathering for an ice cream social in the early evening. Thank you to the Tholen family for their generosity. Yesterday was picture day. This morning we celebrated our first Student Body Mass of the year, and the sixth grade did a beautiful job leading us in song. The small change in formal uniform looks great. All of the junior high students are now settled into their lockers.

The worrisome part is our lower enrollment. 24 students graduated in 2018, but only 4 entered Kindergarten. Four new families enrolled, while 5 families moved on to continue their education elsewhere. The good news is, the PreK class this year is full. The expansion is now complete awaiting approval from licensing, when we will be able to welcome up to 22 more children into our Child Care Center.

SERVICE HOURS: One of the reasons we require service hours from our families is to help offset our expenses. You are asked to bring in supplies and provide services. Yesterday, our copier in the office burned out, after 5 hard years of service, and the two in the copy room are not far behind. Until we are able to upgrade, we will not be able to send out hard copies of many of our announcements or forms. This will affect the teachers as well, who print out worksheets. If you have access to making copies, please offer to do so for your classroom teachers. You will receive service hours.

Many educational publishers are moving to digital resources. Did you know every student has access to their Math Textbook, additional practice for each lesson, and tutorials in grades 6—8? Our Vocabulary Program offers practices on line at every level. The Accelerated Reader program is required in most grades. As the price of tablets, like the Kindle Fire, continues to drop, we recommend you invest in one of those for school use rather than rely on a smart phone.

We have made a few changes to the Parent/Student Handbook. Please read and return the acknowledgement form attached to this newsletter.

Did You Know: As a family, you should have a list of family emergency phone numbers that your children know from an early age. Review these numbers together a few times a year. Children should know their parents' cell and work phone numbers, and they should know who to call — and how— in an emergency. Include the numbers for the police, the fire department, and stress the importance of knowing when and how to contact 911. For little children who cannot memorize all that yet, try writing the parents' phone numbers inside their shoes. For a copy of the complete VIRTUS® article "Family Night," [click here](#).

CALENDAR

August

- 8/24 Spirit Dress Day
"STM Student Families" Icebreaker
- 8/27 Chess Demo at Lunch
- 8/28 9 AM Robotics Assembly Grades K-6
- 8/29 7 PM Back to School Night
- 9/3 NO SCHOOL—Labor Day
- 9/4 10:30 AM Band Demonstration
- 9/5 8:20 AM Student Body Mass
3-4 PM Robotics K-3
6-9 VIRTUS Certification in Hall
- 9/6 10:30 AM Dance Demonstration
- 9/6 3-4 Robotics Demonstration

STM SCHOOL SAFETY

Our children's health and safety is just as important to us as their learning.

Security Door -

When requesting entrance to the campus, please stand in view of camera and be ready to provide identification. The security door can be released from three areas: the school office, child care center, and afterschool care. Do not be insulted if asked what business you have, especially after school, as not every staff member is familiar with every child, parent, grandparent, or relative that might be here to pick up a student. Supervision of students is foremost, which means that staff might be required to cross a room to answer the security doorbell.

Due to the high number of people who arrive 10 to fifteen minutes early on a regular school day, we ask you to wait until the dismissal bell rings (3:00; or on Mondays @ 2:00) when the door will be opened during pickup. The door should NOT be propped open except between 7:45-8 AM and 3-3:15 PM (2- 2:15 on Mondays).

Drop Off and Pick Up Zones

- ⇒ Please have the student backpacks, lunches or lunch money, and students ready before entering the Pick Up and Drop Off Zone.
- ⇒ Please do not use your cell phone or play loud music while picking up or dropping off students.
- ⇒ Come to a complete stop. (But you may not park!)
- ⇒ Teachers and aides will help direct traffic in this area. Please pull up as far as they indicate.
- ⇒ Students should exit and enter on the passenger side of the car only.
- ⇒ Use the pick Up/drop off area in front of school correctly. Do not park in this area. If you want to park and talk to a teacher, or get out of your car to pick up your child, or open the trunk, you must park in a marked stall.
- ⇒ Use the crosswalk!

Picking Up Children From School

Early: Children are not released directly from the classroom to leave school before dismissal times. You MUST come to the office first and sign out your child. Your child will be sent for and released to you. Your child forget a lunch, materials or assignment? You need to check in at the office!

Finally, students are not allowed to leave campus and walk to 7-11 for any reason. The proximity to the I-10 makes it a target for police activities, and the opening of a Vape shop adds to our concerns.

If you need to have your fingerprints registered with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, please refer to the following link for a complete schedule: [LA Archdiocese Fingerprinting Schedule](#)

Dear STM Families,

Several changes and amendments have been made to our Parent/Student Handbook. Please refer to the school website: www.stthomasmorealhambra.org and to the following pages listed below for these changes:

pp. 7, 8, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24, 32, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 57, 58,

Kindly read and review these changes in St. Thomas More's policies and procedures with your child(ren) and other family members who are actively involved with your child(ren)'s school activities.

-----TEAR & RETURN-----



St. Thomas More School
Parent/Student Policies Agreement Form
(Please print except where signatures are required)

ACCEPTANCE OF PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Our family has reviewed and read the St. Thomas More School Parent/Student Handbook. We are aware of, understand, and agree to follow the policies and procedures stated in the Handbook. We acknowledge that the school has the right to amend the Handbook during the school year as needed and we agree to follow the policies and procedures as may be added or amended.

We understand that we may be asked to withdraw our child(ren) from the school or our child(ren) may not be invited to return the following year, if we fail to fulfill our responsibilities under the Handbook and any additions and amendments that may be made. Our signatures below indicate our commitment to fulfill our obligations according to the requirements of the Handbook.

Father's or Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Mother's or Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Print student names and grades:

Student's First Name _____ Grade _____

Student's First Name _____ Grade _____

Student's First Name _____ Grade _____

Student's First Name _____ Grade _____