



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ACADEMY
OUR PRIDE IS EXCELLENCE
OUR SPIRIT IS COMMITMENT

The Office of the Principal

Gerald D. Smith Jr., Principal
Pastor

Fr. Raymond Moore,

Happy End of the Year STM Community,

Year two is in the books and I cannot believe the year we've had; one filled with joy, sorrow, and an unexpected time to pause. It has been such an amazing time to lead this school and I'm thrilled of what's to come in the future; this year alone we've been able to partner with amazing community members, build a new library, develop our school culture and ultimately spend time with loved ones at home. While the times may seem uncertain, we know that all things are good for those who believe in God and are called according to his purpose. We are STM folks, leading, teaching, and inspiring, reflecting love daily according to the scriptures.

As we end this year, I wanted to wrap up some things for our community. The last day of school for kindergarten and eighth grade scholars is Friday May 29th. Educators and family will be celebrating the eighth grade graduates on Friday June 5th at 10 am. Links are being sent out for the live and recorded ceremonies. The final day of school for all other scholars will be Friday June 5th. Mrs. Shuler will be in touch with each of those families that were loaned technology for the distance learning platforms. Upon return, if there are particular items that families would like to retrieve from their scholars' desk, we will have a schedule that goes out next week for you to retrieve them during the week of June 8th.

As we prepare for summer, educators have developed an online platform for scholars enrolled in summer enrichment programs to continue learning. There will be three educators that are working with non-title I scholars to ensure learning and review happens over the summer; we will have Title I services for those eligible to receive them, as well as art, yoga, and STEM activities for those enrolled. All rising eighth graders are required to attend the HSPT summer course led by Mr. Smith. Details about summer enrichment registration has been sent out and there is still time to register. Summer Enrichment will be completed digitally and each member enrolled will receive a supply bin to conduct a number of activities with their instructors this summer. The following educators will work alongside scholars not in Title I: Ms. Weinman; Pre-K to 1st grade; Mrs. Nesmith 2nd-4th, Ms. Jones 5th-7th, Mr. Smith 8th.

Lastly, as we transition into year three of my leadership, many changes will be seen upon our return. The first big change is the transition of Mrs. Helena Gibson from our school to return to her home state of Florida to care for family; it is with sorrow that we will see the infamous math educator Mrs. G depart our school as she returns home; we are forever grateful for her love of the scholars through the relationships she has built with them. As she returns home we will keep her and her family in prayer. This was a very tough decision for Mrs. G, but as we all know, family is very important and the best of us always finds our way back to STM. We support her decision and look forward to the amazing things she'll continue to do. Please allow Mrs. G



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the opportunity to share this news with the scholars. We would like her to share her departure with them when she is ready to do so.

As we prepare for the new academic school year of 2020-2021, I have begun the legwork for school to begin promptly on August 24th. The ability to do so on our school campus will depend greatly on the pandemic itself. I'd like to have some parent representatives support this task force as we work to reopen our school's campus in alignment with CDC and state laws that Mayor Muriel Bowser will place on us. The CCA President Vincent Spadoni and I will be in constant contact with you and our new families throughout the summer. We are thrilled at the increased enrollment that has occurred over this pandemic and look forward to continuing this great work to lead, teach, and inspire. Either digitally at a distance or in person school will proceed forward in August.

I pray that you and your family are safe and healthy. Please continue to pray for the world, especially the US as we work together to dismantle systems of oppression that have impacted the African-American community greatly. As we know the education of our scholars is crucial in doing so, so that each of our scholars has the agency to explore the complexities of the world and cause change.

God Bless,

Principal Gerald D. Smith Jr.