



St. Thomas Aquinas School NEWSLETTER



Staffing updates for the 2020/2021 school year

STA Parents

Greetings from St. Thomas School!!! We hope you are all enjoying summer break. We are thrilled to share some staffing updates for the 2020/2021 school year:

2nd grade teacher - Mrs. Janet Mitchell. Janet joins our STA family after teaching for the past 12 years at the Webster City Head Start.

4/5/6 grade teacher –Ms. McKenzi Faul. McKenzi joins us after working at the Stratford Preschool this past year. She is a recent graduate from Minot College in North Dakota. She will be sharing some content classes with Mrs. Nelson to serve 4th-6th grade.

K-6 Music and Religion – Mrs. Melissa Hindt. Melissa is not new to us as she has served as a para-educator in our PS program as well as volunteered her time to teach STA students music during the 2019-2020 school year. She will also be teaching some religion classes. She brings 14 years of experience into this position, and has most recently served as a Music teacher at St. Ed's in Fort Dodge.

We are blessed to have these teachers join our school family. Please help us welcome them and pray for all of us to have a great school year!!!

Bidding a Fond Farewell

As most of you already know Mrs. Judy Wagner, a 29 year veteran teacher, is transitioning to a new school.....her alma mater – Carroll Kuemper. Prior to teaching at STA she served 2 years at St. John's in Arcadia, Iowa. While this move is bittersweet for her, she will be returning to her roots and helping to support her parents while teaching 5th grade students at Kuemper Middle School.

Mrs. Wagner wishes to express her appreciation for all the support and love she has received from STA families and staff over the years. She requests that we pray for her in her new position, and likewise, she will do the same for us –her forever school family.

Words cannot express how blessed STA has been to have Judy serve our students for so many years. She has indeed educated hundreds of “minds, hearts and spirits” and for this we are truly grateful. We wish Judy the best of luck in her new endeavors. You will truly be missed. God bless you on your new journey!!!

More School Information

Updates regarding Return to Learn Plan 2020/2021

As shared previously, we plan to start school in person on August 24th. The following are some updates/clarifications discussed recently with the Rtl (Return to Learn) committee regarding implementation of safeguards for students and staff:

1. We are currently exploring the possibility of purchasing clear facemasks for both staff and students.
2. Plexiglass will be installed in the main office as well as in the serving line in the cafeteria.
3. Scanner thermometers have been purchased and will be used when students arrive at school.
4. A separate area will be created for any student who needs to wait for a parent pick up due to a temperature of 100.4 and above.
5. Staggered recesses (by grade levels).
6. Staggered lunch times/lunch locations.
7. School provided plastic cases that will be used to store each student's personal supplies (i.e., scissors, pencils, markers, crayons, etc.) This will eliminate "community" supplies used by all students.
8. Desk arranged in classrooms to accommodate social distancing.
9. Visual markings/cues in the hallways used to accommodate social distancing.
10. **Parents** need to add the following to the school supply list:
 - a. Water bottle marked with your child's name. This needs to go home daily. We are looking at purchasing a water bottle refill station as our water fountains will be off limits.
 - b. A small bottle of sanitizer for each child. The school will provide 2 bottles per room to begin the year.
The school is also looking at purchasing a mist machine that will allow us to more efficiently sanitize our whole school on a daily basis.
11. Chrome books will be purchased to use in school. Mrs. Stoneburner will instruct students how to use these devices in the individual classrooms as opposed to the computer lab, which will be off limits for the time being. The Chrome books can be taken home with a student who may need to be quarantined due to experiencing Covid symptoms or being exposed to a family member who is experiencing such symptoms.
12. More information to follow regarding what instructional platforms will be used via the chrome books (i.e., Google classroom, Seesaw, Zoom, etc.)

Our intention is to begin the school year with all these safeguards in place. Our hope is that we will be able to gradually eliminate some of these safeguards given the recommendations of our local health officials with whom we will be in contact with on a regular basis.

The RTL committee will continue to meet every 2 weeks (or more if needed) during the summer break. We are requesting parent feedback regarding this information as well as what other concerns/questions you may have about our in-person return to school.