



## SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

*The Catholic School of Bloomfield*

August 2nd, 2021

Dear Families and Community of St. Thomas the Apostle School,

We continue to hope and pray that you are all enjoying this beautiful summer weather and time of relaxation. Can you believe it is already early August? The summer is certainly flying by. Our administration and office staff have been working non-stop to ensure that come September our students, faculty and staff have the necessary tools at their disposal to maintain the academic excellence that we strive for at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Our classrooms are being cleaned down from top to bottom as we continue our partnership with York Cleaning Services. The painting projects which were mentioned at the end of the school year are being fulfilled quickly. Curriculum materials have and are continuously delivered to the school to maintain the strong 21st century model of education that we have at St. Thomas the Apostle School. We are thrilled to have normal school masses in the fall on every First Friday, along with clubs, sports, and activities.

We are proud to say that we have come to an agreement with Language Learning Network, who currently runs our Spanish Program to extend the number of classes for grades 6-8. We have heard from many High Schools regarding the importance of students understanding a second language, and with that we took action. Grades 6, 7, and 8 will have Spanish multiple times a week in the 2021/2022 School Year to meet the needs of what will face them in their High School Studies. We have altered their schedules without removing pertinent classes, all of the core classes are still intact.

In early July we communicated on our social media outlets that we have begun a direct partnership with the Pit BBQ in Bloomfield for our lunch program. We are proud to say that this program is ready to be deployed in September. This lunch program will work a little differently than programs prior at St. Thomas. All families will receive a lunch calendar in mid-August for the September Lunches. The family then has the decision to either purchase lunch for the entire month of September or have their children bring their own lunch. This will be a monthly pre-paid system through smart tuition, the family will pay per child for the entire month.

When the calendar for lunch is communicated a link for the Buy Now option on Smart Tuition will be communicated as well. Parents have until the 27th of each month to have lunch ordered for their children for the duration of the following month. This program is available for all students, faculty and staff (There will be no extra lunches available only students who have pre-ordered for the month will receive lunch)

\*The CYO Office of the Archdiocese of Newark has dispersed a message to all pastors and principals regarding sports in the fall. The plan as of today, is to have volleyball and cross country offered. Volleyball starting in fifth grade and Cross country covering grades Kindergarten through 8th.

\*The Home and School Association is planning to hold a meet and greet session for new families on Wednesday August 25th at 11am. Once that date and time are finalized a flyer will be sent out.

\*Please be reminded that supply lists are available on our school website for Kindergarten through 8th, as well as the summer work assigned for grades 1-8. These materials are available on the homepage of our website at [www.staschoolnj.org](http://www.staschoolnj.org)

\*With the assistance of our Non-Public Security Funding: Enhancing our safety and emergency procedures with Info-Boards from TPC Associates. These boards sync up with our clock and bell system, the main office and principal will be able to establish alerts and alarms for drills to prepare for emergencies.

\* Back in 2019 we won 2nd Place, this year we are going for the Gold!!! Help us win! Be sure to vote for St. Thomas the Apostle School for the best “Private School” in Essex County!  
It is time to go for the GOLD!

Follow the link below: <https://bestofessex.com/private-schools/p:3>

\*\*Mask Update-people have been asking about the ruling on masks for September. Please know that we want to do what is safest for the students, faculty, staff, and our families. We are awaiting official guidance from the Governor, the School District and the Archdiocese of Newark. Once that ruling is passed down it will be communicated with everyone. We continue to be active in the fight against Covid-19 and all variants as we have filters updated in all of the classrooms regularly, and portable filtration systems at the ready. Our contracted cleaning service through York Cleaning sanitizes and cleans the building from top to bottom nightly.

\*\*Sr. Joan Moore Scholarship-We are pleased to announce that the Sr. Joan Scholarship is slated to assist 7 students in attending St. Thomas the Apostle School in the 2021/22 School Year. This would not be possible without the support and donations of our families, alumni and school community. We are ever grateful for your support and appreciate the support in the future. For those of you who would like to donate to the Sr. Joan Moore Scholarship Fund it is simple as a click of a button. Simply go to <https://bngn.smarttuition.com/?id=ohkct2n0svk#/home/> and your donation will be made for you. Anyone willing to send a check donation to the school, will receive a letter to announce it as a tax deduction. We are always thankful for the support of everyone!

#### SR. JOAN MOORE SCHOLARSHIP

Established in the memory of Sr. Joan Moore, beloved teacher of St. Thomas the Apostle School and devout member of the Sisters of Charity. Sr. Joan Moore spent 40 years of her life educating and nurturing the students of St. Thomas the Apostle School. Her constant energy, catholic values, and academic intellect assisted in the growth of not only our students but their families as well. We are proud to name this scholarship in her honor.

Established in the summer of 2020, the Sr. Joan Moore Scholarship, helps individuals who meet the criteria and needs of financial assistance to attend St. Thomas the Apostle School. Families can apply for this scholarship as a “Silver Angel” recipient and as a “Gold Angel” recipient.

A “Silver Angel” applies for \$750 of their tuition to St. Thomas the Apostle School to be funded through the Sr. Joan Moore Scholarship Fund for the 2021/2022 School Year

A “Gold Angel” applies for \$1,500 of their tuition to St. Thomas the Apostle School to be funded through the Sr. Joan Moore Scholarship Fund for the 2021/2022 School Year.

All submissions have been filled in and have been assessed. The recipients have been notified.

Our applicants come from economically disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds within Bergen, Passaic, and Essex counties in New Jersey. Our tuition assistance is based on need without regard to gender, race, religion or ethnic background.

Our school continues to flourish, and embrace the changes in the world around us. With the relationship we have with our parish community of St. Thomas the Apostle, there is no goal that we cannot achieve. Fr. Larry Fama and I speak daily regarding new items we can bring to the community to broaden the ideals and fulfill the mission of St. Thomas the Apostle. We have seen the great accomplishments we have achieved during the time of the pandemic, and it shows that nothing will stand in the way of academics and excellence.

**Calendar Reminders and Notes:** (Please note the calendar for the school year is always tentative, and can be altered with short notice)

Office closed-August 9th through August 13th-entire campus will be closed for a deep cleaning.

The school year begins for grades 1-8 on September 8th, please note that September 8th, 9th and 10th are 12:15 dismissals

September 10th-is the Kindergarten Orientation the time for this will be announced.

September 13th is the first full day of school for Kindergarten through 8th Grade---this is the first day of our lunch program in September.

Pre-K orientation will take place on September 14th, the time for this will be announced, and September 15th is the first official day for Pre-K students.

October 11th-Columbus Day-School Closed

Thanksgiving Break-November 24th 12:15pm dismissal, school closed November 25th and 26th

Christmas Break-12:15 pm Dismissal on December 23rd, school closed December 24th-December 31st. School resumes January 3rd

January 17th-School Closed-Martin Luther King Day.

Easter Break-12:15pm dismissal on Wednesday April 13th, School is closed April 14th-April 22nd. School resumes on April 25th.

Formal school calendars will be available in late August.

As always my office staff and I are always here to assist in any way we can. We are available via email at [mpetrillo@staschoolnj.org](mailto:mpetrillo@staschoolnj.org), [staoffice@staschool.org](mailto:staoffice@staschool.org) or via phone at

973-338-8505. I wish you all a safe and healthy remainder of the summer and I will see everyone in September.

Mr. Michael Petrillo M.Ed.

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*When you enroll your child, we enroll your family*